

# STRATFORD TIMES

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NOVEMBER 24, 2023

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## Winter Wander-Land Guide kicks off downtown holiday shopping

LISA CHESTER  
Times Correspondent

After a resounding success last year, the BIA has brought back the Winter Wander-Land Guide to kick off Christmas shopping in the beautifully decorated downtown of Stratford. Each guide features the gorgeous artwork of Vicki Schofield and are now available at participating stores, restaurants and businesses.

This year there are 95 businesses included in the guide, an increase of 47% over last year. When you make a purchase, you will receive a sticker to be placed in the guide. Collect 8 stickers to complete a ballot to win one of three prizes. First prize is \$300 in Downtown Dollars, second is \$200 in Downtown Dollars and third is \$100 in Downtown Dollars.

“We’re excited because there’s so many more businesses this year, last year there was about 63, 65 participating. Last year was the first year for the Wander-Land Guide and we had people come in after and said they would have liked to participate too, so they are there this year,” enthused Jamie Pritchard, general manager of the BIA.

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(AL HAMBERG PHOTO)

### THE END FOR A HISTORIC BUILDING

Demolition activities began in mid-November on Stratford’s original hospital, known as Avon Crest. The building, which dates back to 1889 and served as Stratford’s hospital until 1950, is being torn down by Huron Perth Health Alliance who plan to utilize the space for a new 128-bed long term care home.

## Avon Crest demolition begins

STRATFORD TIMES STAFF

stratfordtimes@gmail.com

Last week marked the beginning of the end for the Avon Crest building, as demolition procedures were initiated on the structure that housed Stratford’s first hospital.

After 60 years of providing care to area residents, Avon Crest closed in 1950, coinciding with the opening of the Stratford General Hospital located across the street. Avon Crest then operated as a convalescent facility from 1955 to 1990. Outpatient services and administrative offices resided in the building until 2018 when they were also moved to Stratford General Hospital leaving the Avon Crest building vacant.

Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) determined

that increasing maintenance costs associated with a building constructed in 1889 made the continued operation of the building unaffordable.

A recent press release from HPHA stated, “The limited funding the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance receives is directed to providing healthcare services and not restoration of vacant buildings.”

“HPHA envisions the Avon Crest site as a future healthcare asset for the community and hopes to achieve this by maintaining ownership of the land with future development by a third party. In February 2020 a Request for Solutions was issued that aimed to identify qualified groups interested in partnering with the HPHA to develop the property in a manner that would both respect

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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(AL HAMBERG PHOTO)

## Avon Crest demolition begins

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

the heritage significance of the building in future development and bring significant value to the community's health and wellness system. No interested parties provided submissions to this request.

"HPHA proceeded to obtain an estimate for the redevelopment/restoration of the main Avon Crest building, excluding additions, to restore the building to its 1900s exterior along with making the interior compliant with current year

building codes as well as functional for commercial activities. The order of magnitude estimate was approximately \$24 million.

"In response to concerns from the community HPHA commissioned an environmental study on the potential greenhouse gas impact of demolition of the building. The report indicates that the greenhouse gases emitted by demolition will be approximately half of the gases the building emits annually."

## Winter Wander-Land Guide kicks off downtown holiday shopping

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

There is no minimum purchase to get a sticker and each guide comes with three ballots to complete. Shop till your heart's content, have lunch and collect stickers along the way. There is also no limit on the number of ballots that you can submit. The guide lists all 95 participating businesses conveniently organized alphabetically in categories of Food and Beverage, Services, and Shopping. It also has a handy map of the downtown core displaying each participant.

Treat yourself to a new hairstyle at Grotto Hair Studio or a movie treat at Little Prince Cinema in exchange for a sticker. Of course, downtown Stratford is no stranger to great restaurants and cafes to satisfy a thirst worked up while shopping.

Get a free sticker by riding on the Carousel that will be located in Market

Square on two featured weekends, November 25th and 26th as well as December 2nd and 3rd. A free sticker is also being offered for participating in the Gnome Scavenger Hunt at the Stratford Public Library. Gnomes are on the loose at the library and need to be found. Complete the gnome hunting guide and earn a free sticker.

Parking downtown is free on Sundays during the winter season making a perfect opportunity to come down and wander through the many local stores whose economy could use our support.

Ballots can be dropped off at the Destination Stratford office at 47 Downie St. by December 22nd. The draw will take place on December 23rd. The Winter Wander-Land Guide is generously supported by Rheo Thompson Candies and The Starlight.

**CORRECTION:** The November 10th edition of the Stratford Times regrettably included an error that we did not catch during our editing process. The page 1 story regarding the 10,000+ poppies

that were draped over the William Hutt Bridge had incorrectly referred to the bridge by the wrong name. The Times is very sorry for not catching this mistake in the print edition.

# Perth County Courthouse getting an upgrade

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

At the November 2 Perth County Council meeting, the decision was made to replace and upgrade the Courthouse Tower of Light installation with a more robust solution, provided by MOSS LED, that can be easily programmed with specific colours to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.

The Perth County Courthouse will see the installation of an upgraded light show for this year during the fourth annual Lights On Stratford winter festival.

When Lights On Stratford first launched a winter festival of lights in 2020, Perth County and Destination Stratford partnered to create the Courthouse Tower of Light installation, which was introduced to wide acclaim from the community and remained well beyond the inaugural festival period.

“We are excited to see the installation of a new and upgraded light system in the Courthouse Tower,” said Sarah Franklin, Communications Officer, County of Perth. “The current system has reached the end of its useful life. At the time it was installed, it was uncertain what the conditions of the tower would do to a system of that nature being un-insulated and not intended for electrical and other items to be up there. A lot has

been learned since the first system was installed.”

The current colour-changing light system is no longer operational and has reached the end of its lifespan. Destination Stratford approached Perth County about funding the new system's installation to support the downtown core's aesthetics and add to the Lights On Stratford Festival attractions.

Perth County was able to apply for the Destination Development Fund to help cover the costs of the new, upgraded lights, and through that, \$5,000 of the total \$8,618 cost will be covered.

“The courthouse building is such an iconic and important landmark, so we are absolutely thrilled that Perth County is supporting the tower lights to be resurrected with an enhanced installation that will be a beacon of joy at this winter's Lights On Stratford and will continue to shine brightly for our community year-round,” said Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford and Festival Director of Lights On Stratford. “It takes a village to raise a lights festival, and community partnerships are an essential element for success. A huge thank you to Perth County for once again partnering with Destination Stratford to help make our region shine.”

If you'd like to know more, please visit [www.lightsonstratford.ca](http://www.lightsonstratford.ca).



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A NIGHTMARE IS ON THE LOOSE!

A spree of furniture thefts in the town of Chaseford (aka Stratford), Ontario, has kept Joel too busy to talk to his mentor Dr. Khryscoff about the terrible nightmares he's been having. Dreams that have taken on a disturbing reality.

The unsettling third book in the Joel Franklin Mystery series, *Terror on the Way*, is available now on Amazon in ebook and paperback, on Kindle Unlimited, and in select local bookstores.

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# STRATFORD TIMES

Stratford's Community Newspaper

Established 2021

The Stratford Times is published twice per month (the second Friday and fourth Friday) and is free to all citizens either in print format or online at stratfordtimes.com. The newspaper is published by Grant Haven Media, a local business who also publishes the Goderich Sun, St. Marys Independent, Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette and Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.

**stratfordtimes@gmail.com**  
**www.stratfordtimes.com**

## Editor

Stewart Grant

## Graphic Design / Layout

Sarah Cairns

## Administrative

Wendy Lamond, June Grant, Cindy Boakes

## Advertising Inquiries

Contact stratfordtimes@gmail.com  
or call 519-655-2341

## Contributors

Spencer Seymour, Betty-Jo Belton, Julia Schneider, Gary West, Paul Knowles, Emily Stewart, Lisa Chester, Fred Gonder, April Taylor, Sheila Clarke, Irene Roth, Lauren Eedy, Lee Griffi, Stuart Lender, Amanda Modaragamage, Thomas R. Verny  
(If interested in contributing to the Stratford Times, send us a note at stratfordtimes@gmail.com)



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**Letters to the Editor:** Please email to stratfordtimes@gmail.com, or send to our physical office at the St. Marys Independent, PO Box 2310, 36 Water Street South, St. Marys, ON N4X 1A2.

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## Drop into Market Square for family fun

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

Winter Wander-Land has returned to Market Square with family friendly activities for all ages. Over the course of two weekends, there will be wintry fun and treats by the fire that will be sure to bring joy to all that attend.

"We want to bring folks downtown to shop, have coffee in a café, to experience downtown in a different way. We're trying to get people to discover, Wander, through Wander-Land. That's where the Guide comes in to encourage people to hit some of the edges of downtown," said Jamie Pritchard, general manager of the BIA.

The events, organized and funded by the BIA, is made possible with the cooperation of merchants, restaurants, and businesses in downtown Stratford.

"The committee has been working very hard for weeks planning, preparing, and thinking outside of the box to provide an inclusive experience all will enjoy," said Kim Griffiths, membership and animation liaison for the BIA.

To launch Winter Wander-land, on Saturday morning, November 25th, at 11:00 a.m. there will be 40 representatives of Sing for the Joy of It Perth Community Choir. This will include Avondale United Church music director Dan Van Winden with accompaniment by pianist Karen Rempel.

The first weekend, November 25th and 26th will see the return of the well-loved Carousel sponsored by Dunphy Burdett Lawyers LLP. This event highlight is made available by free will donation of which 100% of the proceeds will be given to the Connection Centre. Riding the carousel will also get you a free sticker for the Winter Wander-Land Guide available at 95 participating stores downtown.

Two firepits will be kept stoked and ready to roast marshmallows for S'Mores or simply warm your fingers

and toes after a ride on the Carousel. While there, take in a demonstration by blacksmith John Walker of Fallen Willow Forge. He always draws a crowd with his fascinating craft and will be on site from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on November 25th and 26th. The firepits are sponsored by ORR Insurance and the blacksmith demonstrations are sponsored by MacLeod's Scottish Shop.

The fun continues for a second weekend, December 2nd and 3rd commencing with 11:00a.m. Saturday there will be the children of the Avon-Thames Catholic Choir, ages 3-11 years to entertain while you warm up by the fire pit or ride the Carousel. Rain date for this choir will be Sunday at 11:00 a.m. if necessary.

As you wander downtown with your Winter Wander-Land guide, keep an eye out for the strolling carolers that will be spreading cheer throughout the downtown core. Just be sure to be back in Market Square by noon as Santa will be there on a beautiful red sleigh until 3:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Take photo's of your children or pets with Santa as they tell him whether they've been naughty or nice. Santa's arrival is sponsored by Sutton Group.

The fun isn't over there, luckily, as a fantastic new light exhibit called Dandelion will be arriving in time for Winter Wander-Land. This interactive light fixture will keep the festivities bright and beautiful.

"It's going to be amazing, this is new this year. Last year we had the pool. Dandelion is launching December 15 and will be a spectacular launch, that's all I will tell you right now" teased Pritchard.

He adds, "I am so impressed with the community collaboration to create and execute a program that will surprise and delight people of all ages this holiday season." This year's Winter Wander-land is going to be one of the prime events you will not want to miss. Mark these dates on your calendar today and come wander through Your Downtown Winter Wander-land!"



## STRATFORD TIMES

### Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

# Lights on Stratford Expands Free Shuttle Bus Program in Partnership with the City of Stratford

Building off last year's success, Lights On Stratford and Stratford Transit are once again collaborating to provide festival patrons a unique (and warm) way to take in the light art installations.

"This is a perfect example of the community coming together to create something truly special," said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford and Festival Director, Lights On Stratford. "The free and accessible shuttle bus from last year proved to be a big hit, and this year we're able to increase it to 2 buses, so there'll be a free hop-on-hop-off bus stopping at each of the 5 locations every 15 minutes. We've also wrapped the buses and added colourful interior lighting to bring extra joy to the experience!"

The free shuttle bus service runs throughout Lights On Stratford (except for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve) and starts each evening at 5:00p.m. from the Stratford Transit Terminal (with washrooms and free parking). The shuttle buses continuously loop with additional stops including Market Square, Tom Patterson Island, the Bandshell on Veterans Drive, and Memorial Gardens at York Street. The last shuttle bus leaves the terminal each evening at 9:00p.m. and returns at 9:30p.m..

"The City of Stratford and its Transit Department is once again excited to

partner with Destination Stratford and to offer a hop-on-hop-off shuttle bus for the Lights On Stratford winter event this year," said Michael Mousley, Manager of Transit at the City. "The overwhelming positive response to last year's bus shuttle and this exceptional event made it an easy choice to double the frequency to the light installations throughout the City."

Festival organizers are pleased to have received incredible local support from corporate sponsors this year, including Queen's Inn who is a Gold Sponsor supporting the free hop-on-hop-off shuttle bus program.

"Lights On Stratford does an incredible job shining a light on our heritage downtown and encouraging residents and visitors to fully explore our city," said Dan Mathieson of Stratford Hospitality Developments, "and so it was a natural sponsorship fit with our upcoming revitalization plans for the Queen's Inn and its historic place as an 1858 iconic city building."

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter with interactive displays up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10p.m.. The 4th annual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 15th, 2023 until January 13th, 2024.

Visit [lightsonstratford.ca](http://lightsonstratford.ca) for more details.





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# Living Wage spikes to \$22.75

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Times Correspondent

The living wage has risen 10% since last year, but this money directly supports your community, says United Way Perth-Huron

Living Wage Week in Ontario runs from November 6 to 12, and United Way Perth-Huron's Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) announced the new living wage of \$22.75 an hour, up from \$20.70 last year.

Everyday expenses, which include food, housing, utilities, clothing, childcare, and transportation, are considered in the calculation. "The biggest portion of the living wage calculation is rent," said Kristin Craine, Director of Social Research & Planning Council, "The second largest contributor is food costs."

The Perth-Huron living wage is calculated based on a 35-hour work week and considering local data, including living expenses of an average of three family types, once government transfers and deductions were considered.

Craine says that, as a community, we need to start looking at a living wage as a necessity that helps support the whole community, "We need to start fixing the problem instead of always putting a band-aid on it; this is what The Living Wage aims to do," she said.

"There are several employers that, year after year, are working to maintain their certification," Craine said about the support of those who pay their employees a living wage.

She said it's essential to understand and recognize that a living wage is for every-

body's benefit and that when employers pay employees adequately, they will have a better life experience and contribute more frequently to the community.

"What we are seeing in the research at United Way is that income is its most significant indicator of well-being," said Craine, "Income impacts so many different things, and it is also a social determinant of health."

Craine notes when employers pay their employees more money, the cost of goods may increase. Still, as a community, it's vital to understand that these increased prices also reflect you, as a shopper, supporting your neighbours and community to help them provide a safe and healthy life for themselves and their families.

When discussing how community members can support a living wage, Craine notes it's essential to have open discussions and educate yourself on the economic pressures of rising costs. "I think that having conversations with your friends and your co-workers and people in your community about how so many social issues can often be caused by lack of income and poverty is important. Awareness and understanding others are so important."

"I think that knowledge does help people make better decisions," said Craine. "It might mean that the costs of products and services are going up, but that's okay. If it's going back to somebody so that they can afford to pay rent."

If you'd like to learn more about the living wage and how it affects the Perth-Huron community, please visit [perthhuron.unitedway.ca](http://perthhuron.unitedway.ca).

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# Stratford House of Blessings Blessed by Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie Campaign

KRISTEN PARKER

Times Correspondent

For the first year ever, Tim Hortons ran a holiday smile cookie campaign. The three Tim Hortons locations in Stratford sold smile cookies from November 13-19. They chose to support the Stratford House of Blessing with 50% of the earnings from the smile cookie campaign to them and the remaining 50% to Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

The Stratford House of Blessing, located on Erie Street, is Stratford's largest food bank and has served the people in the community of Statford for over 40 years. They are primarily a food bank, and they also offer a variety of additional services to their clients. They host a Christmas toy program, a back-to-school program, a diaper and formula program, and more. They're committed to supporting people in the community seeking extra support.

The food bank is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.. Clients can schedule an appointment, and walk-ins are also welcome. They provide a variety of groceries, including produce, meats, eggs, and cheese, and they do their best to honour dietary restrictions and cultural sensitivities.

Kelsey Lauersen, the resource coordinator at Stratford House of Blessing, said that as of October 31, they have seen a 29.4% increase in one year of people using their services, with over 12,000 peo-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## CREATING SMILES

Mayor Martin Ritsma decorates cookies in support of the Stratford House of Blessing.

ple visiting them in 2023. They have also seen a decrease in monetary and physical donations in 2023.

The staff at the Stratford House of Blessings is incredibly thankful for how the smile cookie campaign is supporting their work. Lauersen said, "We are super

appreciative because it allows us to keep our doors open and to continue to help people in our community." The donated money enables the Stratford House of Blessing to purchase more food and continue its operations.

Lauersen said this opportunity is a

"great awareness campaign because I feel like despite the fact that we've been in Stratford for 40 years, not everybody realizes that we are now primarily a food bank."

During the smile cookie campaign, volunteers from the Stratford House of Blessings iced smiles on cookies at the three Tim Hortons locations. Even Stratford's City Mayor, Martin Ritsma, volunteered. Mayor Ritsma said he was "So appreciative of all that Tim Horton's does in our local communities" and was "happy to put smiles on cookies, on Tim Horton's patrons, and certainly the House of Blessing, the recipient of this campaign."

Nelda Mossip-Oliver, another cookie decorator volunteer, said, "It was not only fun—strengthening my fingers squeezing the icing out to make smiles—it was for such a good cause as the House of Blessing does so much for thousands and thousands in this community and has for many, many years. The staff at Tim Hortons were such a friendly and fun group, too. God Bless you all."

If you're interested in supporting the Stratford House of Blessing, you can make a monetary donation at [shob.org](http://shob.org) or visit their website to learn more about what physical donations they need.

Visit the Stratford House of Blessing staff during their Holiday Food Drives. They'll be collecting food for the food bank at Zehrs on December 2, and on December 9, they'll be at Food Basics and No Frills.

## Celebrating 35 years of To Stratford With Love

LISA CHESTER

Times Correspondent

Christmas traditions abound this time of year, and for many, the kick off to Christmas is the annual To Stratford With Love dinner hosted by Simple Dreams Ministries. Each year for the past 35 years, Ruth and Richard Kneider have assembled a small army of volunteers to bring the community together for an evening of food and music to celebrate the season.

Their mandate for the dinner has stayed true throughout the years. It is about helping those in need, bringing together those that are lonely, opening hearts to each other and celebrating Christmas as a community.

Last year Simple Dreams welcomed families from Ukraine for the first time and this year they look forward to a growing number attending.

"We were at a function last night and the families that were there the past year were still talking about it and how excited they were. As of right now we probably have forty coming," said Richard.

"I made the assumption that they got to see each other all the time but they don't. They might be in Stratford or St. Marys or somewhere else so they don't get together a lot. At dinner, they will be

sitting together and able to speak to each other in their native tongue," adds Ruth.

It takes a lot of cooperation within the community to bring To Stratford With Love to fruition. Local business, churches, non-profits and restaurants all come together to do what they can to help source and prepare the meal.

"We couldn't do it without the support of all the businesses, churches and restaurants that help out. Simple Dreams Ministries does pay for a substantial amount of things but a lot of things are donated. It's humbling because one particular restaurant I go into that donates

the potatoes will say is it that time of year again, I'd say yes it is, and without any question they help out," said Richard.

The family has also stepped up to help out, including their three daughters and seven grandchildren who all volunteer in one way or another. While the dinner is non-denominational, to them it is the Lord's blessing that they are able to do this event and are motivated by that faith and love.

"We celebrate Christmas, we celebrate Christ, to have this opportunity to share that with people is very special to us. So if we can bring joy and love and fellow-

ship into a person's life for six hours then it's worth it. We have this opportunity to celebrate where so many places can't so we should celebrate where we can. There's joy in giving," said Ruth.

This volunteer driven event is shaping up. For those wishing to volunteer, they can register online at [tostratfordwithlove.ca](http://tostratfordwithlove.ca) and select where they feel best able to help out. Volunteer positions for set up are filled but there are many more areas left that can be considered. Positions are open for decorating the night before, serving meals, tear down, clean up and of course, baking pies.

"We never say no to pies," laughed Richard.

Music will be provided by the favourite local band Upside of Maybe and the Stratford Concert Band will be delivering seasonal music. New this year will be the recently acquired Simple Dreams ice cream trailer.

Mark your calendars for December 16th for To Stratford With Love. Doors at the Rotary Complex where it will be held open at 5:30 p.m. Registration is required ahead of time and can be done online at [tostratfordwithlove.ca](http://tostratfordwithlove.ca) or physical tickets are available at The Local, Stratford House of Blessing, City Hall or the Salvation Army.

# Stratford BIA worried about the future of small business

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It was an eye-opening and surprising announcement, to say the least. One of Stratford's best and busiest restaurants closed its doors last week with just two days notice to their staff and patrons. The Braai House and Braai Bar served their last meals and drinks on November 15, shocking the restaurant community along with Stratford's Business Improvement Association, or BIA.

The Hub also shuttered its doors recently and the general manager of the BIA said some businesses are still struggling to get back to pre-COVID success. Jamie Pritchard said Stratford is still recovering from the pandemic because it relies so heavily on tourism. "We've always had such a vibrant downtown so it's always concerning when we start to lose some restaurants. There is always a turnover in businesses for a variety of reasons but Stratford, being a tourist destination, was much harder hit than other places that rely more on manufacturing and things like that. Our economy supports the tourism industry."

He explained that as a BIA they continue to lobby the federal government to extend the pay back period for businesses that had no choice but to take part in federal loan programs just to keep afloat. The repayment deadline for CEBA loans to qualify for partial loan forgiveness of up to 33 percent has been extended from December 31



of this year to January 18 of 2024. "We are advocating to the federal government to not abolish business loans, but to structure things differently. It's a difficult task, especially for businesses in the hospitality sector. Banks just aren't loaning money out to these folks to refinance because they are

worried about risk factors." Pritchard believes the government needs to give businesses more time to pay off their debt.

When asked if he's worried more restaurants might be closing their doors in the near future, he said that's always a concern. "There are a number of businesses in town for sale, both restaurants and others. You just never know. It hit me really hard to see the Braai go down because if you tried to go on a Saturday night you were turned away, it's been packed. Some places you go to you think I wonder how they are going to make it, but they appeared to be doing so well and that news just hit hard."

In a Facebook post Anthony Jordan, owner of Keystone Hospitality, reached out to his patrons. "We realize that this will come as a shock to many, and we understand the ripple effect this will have on our team that have worked so tirelessly to help build these incredible dining establishments and to you, our amazing guests, who have supported us throughout it all." The company will continue to operate The Bowl Bar, The Little Green Grocery, Bru Garden, and Ken's French Fries, as they were not affected by the previous Covid lockdowns. "For those of you who have unused gift cards, they will be honoured

at these other locations," the post added.

One of the biggest factors in small businesses closing their doors recently is inflation which, while now sitting at 3.1 percent, was over 8 percent. Pritchard said it hurt everyone's bottom line. "Prices have gone up over the last few years, but I don't believe they have gone up proportionately to maintain the margins businesses were enjoying in the past. Everything gets tighter and tighter, their costs of goods keep going up, delivery charges are up, and we just had an increase in the minimum wage."

The Stratford Festival is and has been the driving force behind the amount of tourism dollars coming into Stratford for years, but Pritchard said he's always concerned about the businesses making up the BIA's membership. "When you look at our businesses in the downtown area, we aren't filled with chain stores. They are sole proprietorships owned by people who are part of our community who have children who go to our schools. Look at all the employees they have. That just takes the umbrella and makes it bigger and bigger. Businesses are people, it's not just bricks and mortar and its not like a major chain where a Stratford store may not be doing well but stores in Toronto are kicking butt

to make up for it. When you look at an individual store, it's make it or break it." He added the importance of small businesses shouldn't be underestimated since they dominate the economic landscape across the country. "Businesses with less than 100 employees account for 98 percent of all businesses in Canada. Our economy isn't run by the major chain and department stores. It's run by small businesses. That's what fuels our economy."

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# Stratford teen receives donation from Stratford City Mazda to support Ronald McDonald House Charities

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Since 2021, Mazda Canada has honoured Local Legends who make exceptional impacts on their communities. This year, the focus will be on Extraordinary Canadian youth who go above and beyond to do the same.

Through this program, Stratford City Mazda recognized Jake Sippel, a 15-year-old student at Stratford Secondary, as this year's "Rising Legend" for going above and beyond in his work to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwestern Ontario (RMHC-SCO).

Jeff and Trina Meek, owners of Stratford City Mazda, presented Sippel with a \$2,500 cheque along with over \$2,500 worth of supplies, such as toys, household items and non-perishable food items to be donated to Sippel's current fundraising efforts to support RMHC-SCO "Wish Wednesday" campaign and later to be used towards his yearly bowling fundraiser that in total has raised over \$30,000 to date.

Sippel is an extraordinary student who was personally impacted by the RMHC-SCO when he was three years old. Sippel explained that he stepped into a malfunctioning hot tub, which in turn caused second-degree burns on his skin.

After being rushed to Stratford Hospital, he was later brought to London Children's Hospital, where he and his family utilized the RMHC-SCO.

Sippel noted his experience was nothing but positive. "My family was able to stay there and stay close to me," he said. "I felt a lot more comfortable because my parents also couldn't stay in my room. With them being at RMHC, they were so close, and it just made everything feel normal."

This prompted him to do something



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

## RISING LEGEND

**Jake Sippel holding a cheque for \$2,500 donated to him by Jeff and Trina Meek at Stratford City Mazda on behalf of the Mazda Local Legends campaign.**

to give back to a charity that had such an impact on him and his family, "[RMHC-SCO] does a lot to make kids feel like they are at home, and it felt fun, and it kept me distracted from what was going on so I wanted to give back."

A surprise to Sippel, The Meek family from Stratford City Mazda presented him with a cheque and a Mazda car full of

gifts from the Wish Wednesday list, "We appreciate the work that you're doing for the community," said Meek, "Thank you very much. We hope to contribute to what you're doing because I know that it is not very often that youth think they can have such an impact, but you're showing them that they can."

With gratitude, Sippel said, "Families may not be able to get some gifts for the kids this year," he continued, "Families

at RMHC-SCO have a lot of stuff going on, and it can be very busy. So these items will help them with Christmas presents and some household items they need."

The toys and home goods from the Mazda Local Legends program will help support Sippel's mission to donate to Wish Wednesdays at the RMHC-SCO, and the \$2,500 will be used towards paying for the outstanding operational costs for his bowling fundraiser, taking place in May 2024.

If you'd like more information or learn how to donate to Sippel's cause, please reach out via email, at [jakesippel33@icloud.com](mailto:jakesippel33@icloud.com).

## Respiratory illness season is here, with COVID, influenza and many other respiratory viruses circulating.

Huron Perth Public Health, your local family health teams and community health centre, and your hospital emergency departments want you and your children to get through this upcoming respiratory season as safely as possible. Below is information that can help parents and caregivers in Huron Perth to keep their loved ones as healthy as possible in the months ahead.

Reduce the chances of kids getting sick

**Take the following actions to reduce the chances of you or your children getting sick:**

- wash hands
- stay home when sick
- stay up to date on vaccinations
- cover coughs and sneezes and mask when needed
- clean and disinfect surfaces
- improve indoor ventilation

More information on how to do the above actions can be found at [www.hpph.ca/illness](http://www.hpph.ca/illness). Visit [www.hpph.ca/getvaccinated](http://www.hpph.ca/getvaccinated) for the latest vaccination opportunities.

**Manage illness at home**

Most respiratory illness in children, including colds, influenza, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and COVID-19 can be managed at home without the need for prescription medications. However, in some cases, it is important to seek medical care. (Source: Ontario College of Family Physicians). Please see the attached handout Family Doctor Tips on Caring for Children with Respiratory Symptoms. You can also refer to this handout in other languages.

**How to access virtual care**

Health811 is an easy way to get connected to care you or your loved ones need and avoid unnecessary visits to the emergency room. Connect with a registered nurse seven days a week, day or night through online chat at <https://health811.ontario.ca/> or by calling 811 (Toll free TTY line: 1-866-797-0007). You can also use 811's online symptom checker.

Health 811 is a valuable resource to help you determine if and when you need to reach out to your health care provider. In a medical emergency, call 911 immediately.

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# Perth County Paramedic Awarded OAPC Humanitarian Award

Perth County is pleased to celebrate Primary Care Paramedic Jacqueline Ussher who recently received the 2023 Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) Humanitarian Award.

The Humanitarian Award was introduced in 2012 and “Recognizes an act or acts of unselfish donation of time and/or money by paramedic or emergency medical services professionals to relieve the suffering of humanity. Such activities may include disaster relief (at home or abroad) or the compassionate and altruis-

tic support provided to refugees. It is not an annual award and only presented on merit.” (OAPC website)

Jacqueline has shown unwavering commitment and humanitarian service, particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In a time when the world was focused on the global crisis, Jacqueline identified a local issue that was exacerbated due to the pandemic - food security. Recognizing this urgent need, she devoted her time and effort towards the House of Blessing foodbank to ensure continuous supply of

food for those in need. Her volunteerism was not driven by recognition or additional compensation, but by her passion and dedication to making a difference in her community.

“On behalf of County Council, we are pleased to congratulate Jacqueline on this tremendous achievement.” said Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz. “This award recognizes the many ways our Paramedics go above and beyond each day.”

“While it's impossible to quantify the impact of Jacqueline's efforts in pounds

of food, it's unquestionable that her work has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals.” said Mike Adair, Chief of Perth County Paramedic Services. “She is a shining example of the care and compassion our Paramedics show in the community each and every day.”

For more information about the OAPC Awards, visit: <https://www.oapc.ca/exceptional-individuals-recognized-outstanding-contributions-paramedicine/>.

## Our Buildings Tell a Story The Hub 27-31 Market Place

Elijah Kitchen Barnsdale, or E.K. Barnsdale as he was better known, was a prominent citizen and one of Stratford's most successful merchants, owning one of Stratford's biggest businesses. He was born in England and came to Canada when he was 21 years old.

When he first arrived in 1871, he worked with William Taylor and they established a business located at the corner of Market and Wellington Streets. After the death of Taylor, he established the Barnsdale Trading Co. Limited that opened in 1901 at 27-31 Market Place called “The Hub.”

In 1872, Barnsdale delivery service consisted of himself with a basket; next a boy with a push cart; then he had 8 horses and 33 employees on the payroll. Several of them were experienced men who had been with him for 30 years. They had five delivery wagons and sold everything from hardware, prescrip-



tions to groceries and were especially famous for its fine baked goods and they made cream puffs “you'd lie down and die for.” This was the last move for the Barnsdale Trad-



### THE HUB

Left: Elijah Kitchen Barnsdale Above: Hub Interior. This photo, circa World War I, shows the right half of the interior of Barnsdale Trading Co. Limited. It shows the huge central counter and the beautiful tin ceiling. Also in the middle of the store there is the glass cashier's booth where money was transported in tin capsules to parts of the store propelled by overhead wires.

ing Co. Limited.

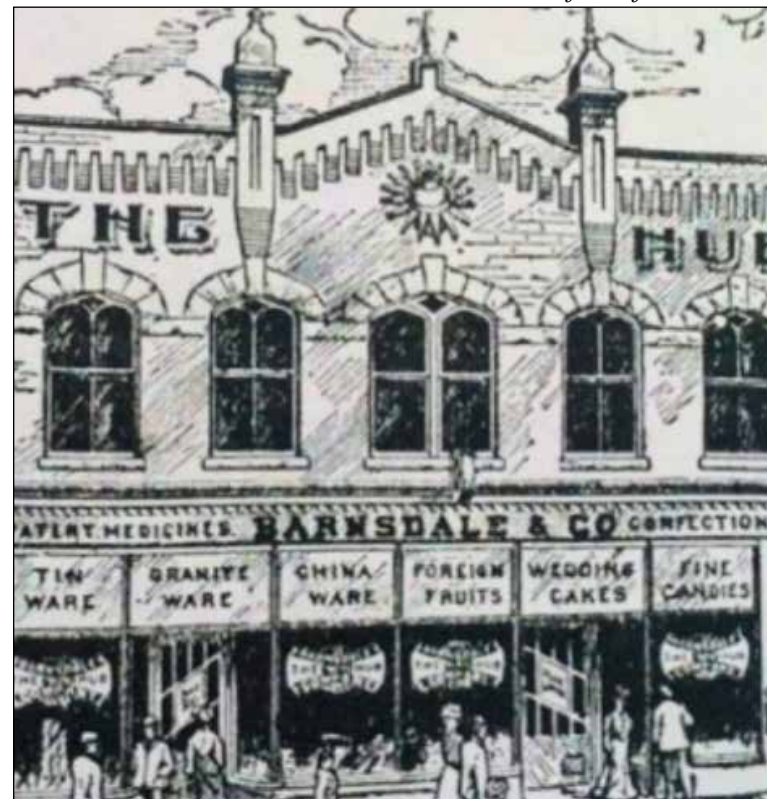
It was in 1922 when the McDonald Trading Co. bought out the company. Over the years this building has housed many other businesses including C.W. Anderson, gro-

cer 1948-1955, Samuel's and Restaurant, 1984-1988.

E.K. was a trusted and very active member of the community. He devoted almost all of his time to civic affairs and served on various boards. He

was also Mayor in 1915 and it was during this time that he passed away on August 2, 1916.

Contributors: Paul Wilker and Gord Conroy  
[www.streetsofstratford.ca](http://www.streetsofstratford.ca)



# Huron Perth Public Health budget cuts will affect services as early as January 2024

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) will restructure its programs and services effective 2024 to address a challenging budget shortfall.

“The province has recently announced a one percent increase for public health units per year over the next three years, which is very welcome news, but not enough to cover the gap,” says Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health for Huron and Perth “We have spent the last year decreasing program expenses in a variety of ways. However, most of our budget is for human resources.”

Prior to the 2020 amalgamation of the Huron County Health Unit and Perth

District Health Unit, both organizations received little to no budget increases while expenses continued to rise due to inflation, affecting wages and other operating costs.

Early in 2020, a one-time COVID-19 funding allowed HPPH to provide a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic; at that time, approximately seventy-five to seventy-eight percent of HPPH staff were redeployed into COVID-19 response, and some additional staff were hired. However, increases to the base budget were limited and did not keep up with rising expenses.

With COVID-19 funding ending, HPPH must address a one-and-a-half million funding gap over the last five years. The Province’s recently announced 1%

increase for public health units over the next three years is welcome news, but still not enough to cover the gap.

“There will be 13.5 positions removed from the HP pH organizational structure, which is approximately a 10% reduction in staffing levels,” said Klassen, “Some of these staffing reductions will accrue occur through retirement and unfortunately layoffs as well as ending temporary staff contracts.”

The positions that will be affected by the funding shortfall include - one program manager, one public health dietitian, point-five administrative assistant/program support, one program evaluator, four-point-four public health nurses, three-point-six public health promoters, one community developer and one on-

line communications coordinator.”

“These changes will impact the programs and services that we are able to provide to the community,” said Klassen, “We’ll be relying on our recently released source 2027 strategic plan to help determine how best to deliver programs and services in the years ahead.

“Public health in Ontario is heading into a transitional time,” says Dr. Klassen. “Public health structure, funding and mandates are under review. We expect new Ontario Public Health Standards to be implemented in 2025 and a new funding approach to be implemented in 2026.”

The newly released 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is available for viewing at [www.hpph.ca/reports](http://www.hpph.ca/reports).

## Emily Murphy Centre grateful for support from Sirkel Foods and Stratford community

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Sirkel Foods’ sandwich sales will help the Emily Murphy Centre ensure families have what they need for the holidays.

The restaurant announced on social media that one dollar from each sale of the featured Emily-wich sandwich special sold on November 14 will support the centre. Sirkel Foods also said they would be collecting several items to donate to the centre such as toys, books, school supplies, toiletries, and food.

Kelly Ballantyne, the co-owner of Sirkel Foods, told the Stratford Times that 50

Emily-wiches were sold. The item drive is ongoing until close to Christmas. The restaurant, which raised about \$75 so far for the Emily Murphy Centre, will also be collecting monetary donations.

“The Emily Murphy Centre is a very important place in our community,” Ballantyne said. “If you are able to help in any way, whether it’s financially or a toy or food item, please do so.”

The Emily Murphy Centre provides second stage housing for women and their children who experienced domestic violence. Lisa Wilde, the executive director of the Emily Murphy Centre, said the centre worked with Sirkel previously and said

the restaurant is great to work with.

“They are always so generous and so willing to give back to the community,” Wilde said.

The funds raised and items donated will help families during the holidays. There’s always an urgent need for food donations, especially with the rising cost of groceries.

“It’s a struggle to make ends meet, particularly on Ontario Works or ODSP, or even our working poor,” Wilde said. “It just exemplifies this time of year. We see people just struggling to put fresh food on the table and make sure they have a decent Christ-

mas for their kids, so we’re always looking for food donations, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, and of course, gifts for Christmas.”

The generosity of Stratford residents during the holidays impresses Wilde.

“Every year, this community comes through for our clients and it’s very much appreciated.”

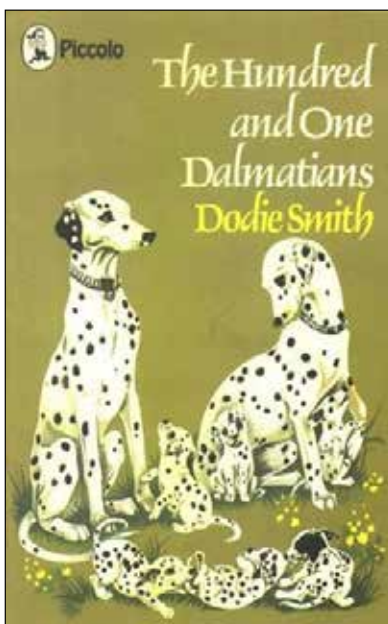
Anyone interested in donating to the Emily Murphy Centre can either call 519-273-7350 or check out a full list of needed items at [emilymurphycentre.com](http://emilymurphycentre.com).

## Shelf Help

*The Hundred and One Dalmatians*  
by Dodie Smith

Libby: ebook, audiobook, BBC full-cast dramatization

Pongo and Missis live a carefree life in Regent Park, London, and are the proud owners of a pair of young humans, Mr. and Mrs. Dearly. After the vile Cruella de Vil (who has already openly expressed an interest in owning a Dalmatian fur coat) offers to purchase their new puppies and is turned down, the puppies are mysteriously dog-napped. Scotland Yard is Frankly Baffled, but Pongo and Missis put the clues together and set off just before Christmas to rescue their children, knowing that Cruella de Vil has truly terrible long-term plans, and no Dalmatian will ever be safe in England again unless she is stopped. This is the



original story by Dodie Smith, full to the brim with charm and sly British humour. Pongo, Missis, their family, and all the animals they meet are beautifully rendered characters. Cruella de Vil is elegant evil incarnate and so sinister, so committed to getting what she wants no matter what the crime, you feel the peril the Dalmatians face every step of the way. This is a delightful read for dog-lovers of all ages. The audiobook version is read by the incomparably suave Martin Jarvis, and is available along with an ebook version and a full-cast dramatization from the BBC through Libby, Stratford Public Library’s digital book service.

CJ Nyssen  
Public Service Librarian  
Stratford Public Library

## Weekend Quiz

- 1) Who is the author of the Hunger Games trilogy?
- 2) How many syllables are there in the word Mississippi?
- 3) What color band identifies a referee in hockey?
- 4) 'Sarcophagus' is another word for what?
- 5) Julius Caesar ruled what empire?
- 6) What U.S president coined the phrase “war on terror”?
- 7) What is the capital of Uganda?
- 8) A female goat is known as what?
- 9) What is the diameter of the Basketball hoop in inches?
- 10) Who is known as the 'Unabomber'?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 35

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# David Stones and John Kastner speak on the success of the Stratford Perth Museum's Strategic Plan

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

At the November 14, 2023 city council meeting, David Stones, Board Chair, and John Kastner, retired General Manager of the Stratford Perth Museum, addressed council on the history and changes the museum has gone through over Kastner's term.

"We changed the museum's visual identity with a new tagline, Your Community, Your Museum," said Stones, "Just through that tagline alone, we forged the museum's identity as a strong community presence, which was the core of that strategic plan."

John Kastner announced in October that he would be stepping down as General Manager of the museum and retiring from the position after ten years of serving as general manager.

Hired in 2013, Kastner has made significant changes to the museum, bringing in much-needed funding and allowing the building and property to connect the community uniquely, unlike any other museum in Ontario.

Stones noted that the annual number of visitors was not enough to keep the space relevant, and he knew a change was needed. "The community admissions at the time were about four to 500 people annually."

He also noted that the first step in making the museum a space where visitors want to come was to strengthen the board, "We realized that the museum is a business albeit a not-for-profit business," said Stones, "If you're going to turn it around, you have to start thinking in terms of piece analysis, and offering it like a business enterprise."

"That Strategic Plan was called Creating Our Future because that's exactly what we wanted to do," said Stones, "Instead of being told who we shouldn't be and what we're supposed to do, we decided we're going to forge our future."

Looking at the museum as a business changed the trajectory of the space, which

increased government support from both levels of government and has now been financial support for over a decade. The total support accounts for 41 percent of total funding.

Hiring the right General Manager for the museum was the final step in Stones' plan, "I wrote the job description myself, General Manager, someone with broad business skills, a networker, a visionary, an industrious, progressive individual who loves a podium and loves a microphone, and this was John," he said with a laugh.

Kastner then spoke on his successful term as GM, "As David alluded to our funding model, which is the vast majority of museums are fully funded by the municipality or municipalities," said Kastner, "Whereas, as David pointed out, we had 41 percent of our funding from our municipal partners. So, it is a bit different model, but I would argue, incredibly successful."

This meant that Kastner not only had to forge his way but do this as a brand-new GM in a business that was admittedly unfamiliar to him, "At my interview, one of the board members asked me, what are you going to do to change the museum to make it more relevant? And I said I had no idea," Kastner continued, "I thought that might have been the end, but I guess that resonated, and they hired me. And six months later, I could tell you about five things that must happen immediately."

Kastner then discussed his role in changing the physical layout of the museum, among other changes, such as hosting the Anne Frank exhibit, showcasing Shakespeare's First Folio, and, of course, the Justin Bieber exhibit, which were all instrumental in making the space relevant.

The struggles of keeping the doors open during the pandemic were another obstacle Kaster took as an opportunity to build upon the museum. He discussed building the Player's Backstage, which now exceeds inside sales and offers quite a profit to the museum.



## YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR MUSEUM

(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

David Stones and John Kastner speak on the success of the Stratford Perth Museum's Strategic Plan

From 189 total visitors in 2013 to 18,000 in 2018 and increasing gift shop sales from a few dollars in 2013 to \$77,000 in 2018, the board and Kaster made the museum relevant, a space for community connection, and a fundamental part of Stratford-Perth communities.

Kastner proudly said all debt for the

museum is up to date; bills are paid, and he also humbly thanks those who, over the years, worked on the infrastructure of the building without cost to the museum, "We'd contract work and never see the bill," he said, emphasizing the support of the whole community.

## Fall Economic Statement Good for Perth-Wellington

Ontario's Minister of Finance, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, introduced the 2023 provincial Fall Economic Statement.

"This year's Fall Economic Statement provides various supports for small and rural communities like ours," said Matthew Rae, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Perth-Wellington. "The FES will help build strong and resilient communities across Ontario."

"Our population is growing, jobs are being created and more and more companies are choosing Ontario as a place to do business," said Minister Bethlenfalvy. "While this is good news, this cannot

be taken for granted at a time of geopolitical and economic uncertainty. The choice for the road ahead is clear. We must continue with our government's targeted approach — it has the flexibility we need

while still investing to build the critical infrastructure to support growing communities across Ontario."

Among the commitments made in this year's FES are some highlights for Perth-Wellington. This includes the introduction of a Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund as well as extending the gas and fuel tax cut until the end of June 2024; saving the average family \$260 since 2022.

Municipalities will benefit from over \$200 Million made available through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund.

These initiatives will keep more money in your pocket and allow municipalities to build more affordable housing.

"We must continue to support municipalities build homes and housing enabling infrastructure," Rae added. "This is great news for Ontario and Perth-Wellington."

## Public Input Invited - Stratford Landfill Site

The City of Stratford welcomes feedback on the operation of its Romeo Street landfill site, and there are several options to provide it.

Comments can be made to the Infrastructure Services department by calling 519-271-0250 ext. 5261 or by emailing the department by Friday, December 8, 2023.

Citizens are also invited to comment on the operation of the landfill site at the upcoming January 2024 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting, by requesting to appear as a delegation.

Delegation requests can be made by completing the Delegation Request Form, available on the City's website. Alternatively, requests can be made by contacting the City Clerk. Requests to appear as a delegation must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meet-

ing date. Details for participating in the meeting will be provided once the request is confirmed.

Answers to some frequently asked questions about the Stratford Landfill Site can be found on the City's website at <https://www.stratford.ca/en/live-here/landfill-faq.aspx>.

Notice of Collection: Personal information is collected by The Corporation of the City of Stratford under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used by City Staff and City Council to assist in making a decision on this matter. All names, addresses, opinions and comments will be made available for public disclosure. Questions regarding the collection and use of this information may be made to the City Clerk, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON, N5A 6W1, or by telephone 519-271-0250 ext. 235 during business hours.

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### ReImagine Senior Living

# A dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is storytelling at its finest

LISA CHESTER

Correspondent

A dramatic reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol will take place December 17th at Avondale United Church. This collaboration from prominent local actors and residents will transport you back to a simpler time when we all loved storytelling.

This fundraiser for Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth is produced by local resident and former CBC radio host Judy Maddren.

"I was just at the Avondale, where it's going to be held, with a team from Rotary Hospice and it's quite a wonderful venue, and they're making it so open and available. It's going to be decorated for Christmas, the sound is great there, it's going to be a really good place for this," said Maddren.

She last produced the reading in Stratford at the Festival Theatre in 2017

and 2018 and was inspired to bring it back because, well, she missed it.

"I miss it. I have always discovered new things about the story every time someone else reads it. Dickens when read out loud, you get all the layers. So my husband and I were talking about maybe having a little party and we would get some of our friends to read. A couple people asked, 'are you going to do that again? I'd really like to go and listen to that again.' That's when I approached Hospice and said if they were interested I'd be happy to produce a reading this year. This will be the 24th year that I've been involved or since I've started doing A Christmas Carol," said Maddren.

In fact, the first time she did so was in 1990 in Toronto, and since then the former CBC Radio News anchor has helped organize many readings across the country, helping to raise countless funds for charitable organizations. In

2016, Maddren was presented with a Meritorious Service Medal by Canada's Governor General in recognition of her tremendous efforts.

Storytelling, especially at this time of year, creates a permeable magic when read out loud. Bring together the ethereal music of Loreena McKennitt with the dramatic reading by readers Lauren Bowler, Ijeoma Ebesowum, Christopher Hyerdahl, Sheila McCarthy, John Miller and Brittlestar (Stewart Reynolds), and the evening will unfold in a way not experienced before.

"I thought, who's in the community, who's an interesting professional kind of person who could do this so we drew up a list and everyone we approached said sure let's do this. They are all professional people who are reading," said Maddren. Readers will be accompanied by the Cratchit Carollers.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15



CHARLES DICKENS' **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
A DRAMATIC READING WITH MUSIC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th  
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Ijeoma Ebesowum  
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Sheila McCarthy  
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# Lights of Love Holiday Campaign in support of Rotary Hospice

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Lights of Love Holiday Campaign is Rotary Hospice's year-end campaign that recognizes families throughout the community, and those who they've lost. All are invited to attend the remembrance ceremony on December 5 at 7 p.m. at the Hospice property, located at 80 Greenwood Dr., right behind Greenwood Court.

"The memorial evening is very much about remembrance," said Lucie Stuart, Director of Fund Development and Stewardship at Rotary Hospice, "We invite the whole community to support the event and come to the ceremony, not just those who have been impacted by Rotary Hospice."

Not only will there be holiday music and poetry performed by local talent, but an important aspect of the ceremony will be that the Rotary Hospice social workers will be on-site to discuss grief around the holidays. The two social workers will be available to answer any questions or concerns for anyone wishing to discuss grief and loss during this time of year.

The ceremony is when the property trees and the building itself will light up for the holidays. This special event will also offer holiday music and a tealight ceremonial walk around the front of the property. "We'll put the lights on and then invite everybody to get a tea light," said Stuart, "we will then invite everyone to view the list of names and remember those



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## IN MEMORY

2022 Lights of Love Ceremony at Rotary Hospice where the community came together in remembrance.

that they've loved and lost."

Community members are invited to make a donation in memory of a loved one, and these in-memory donations will be posted on the Lights of Love Recognition Page online and also will be projected during the lighting ceremony on December 5th.

Stuart says the donations also help those who may be spending time at Rotary Hospice feel more comfortable, "The holidays don't stop at Rotary Hospice; we want to make people feel comfortable and at home, and the lights seem to bring joy to everyone."

For the last three years, this campaign

has allowed family members to recognize their loved ones who've passed on in an honourable and beautiful way, but it has also raised almost \$100,000 in support of the Rotary Hospice. Stuart said, "The generous donations that the community makes and the sponsors cover offset the cost of us being able to put the lights up around the perimeter of the building and light the trees."

"We asked the community to consider making a donation and, with their donation, send in a dedication message," says Stuart, "We'd invite you to include why you are making the donation, who it's in memory of and any other special message you'd like to share."

You can participate in donating to this beautiful cause by visiting their website at [www.rotaryhospice.ca/lights-of-love](http://www.rotaryhospice.ca/lights-of-love) and keeping an eye out for the donation slip inside the quarterly Rotary Hospice newsletter to be mailed this month.

Those who want to attend the lighting ceremony can stop at 80 Greenwood Court on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 p.m.. All community members are welcome to attend; no registration is necessary.

If you are grieving from a loss this holiday season, Rotary Hospice invites you to join Social Workers Melissa McManus and Jaclyn Turpin for a virtual presentation and Q and A on Thursday, December 7, at 7 p.m. To register for this event, please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5WYS52>.

## Perth County Launches Winter Severe Weather Guide

Perth County launched a New Winter Severe Weather Guide today. The new booklet is available in both print and digital versions and includes important information on staying safe and informed during winter severe weather.

The County has seen several severe and significant winter weather events in the last couple of years, which has increased the demand for safety information. The guide is packed with helpful information including types to prepare for severe winter weather, definitions and weather terminology, links on where to find accurate road and weather information, and more!

"Winter weather is fast approaching, and although we are not strangers to this type of weather, the storms are increasing in frequency and intensity," said Rick Fraser, Perth County's Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC). "The County wants to ensure residents are equipped with the important information and knowledge to stay safe and informed. Last year we saw far too many motorists taking unnecessary risks

in dangerous road conditions, placing themselves and our emergency services at risk. We want to make sure residents use caution, abide by travel warning and advisories, and stay safe this winter season."

Copies of the new Winter Severe Weather Guide are available to pick up free of charge at local municipal offices and other locations across the County:

- Perth County Courthouse: 1 Huron Street, Stratford (entrance now via St. Andrew Street)
  - Municipality of North Perth: 330 Wallace Avenue North, Listowel
  - Township of Perth South: 3191 Road 122, St. Pauls
  - Township of Perth East: 25 Mill Street East, Milverton
  - Municipality of West Perth: 160 Wellington Street, Mitchell
  - Stratford-Perth Archives: 4273 Line 34, Stratford
- To view a digital copy or to learn more about Emergency Preparedness in Perth County, visit: [www.perth-county.ca/emergency](http://www.perth-county.ca/emergency)

## A dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The version being presented is one that Dickens himself shortened for reading in an hour or two. His first public reading was in 1857 and today, more than 150 years later the story still resonates with us all. There will be a silent auction and an intermission where refreshments will be provided by the Hospice team. Doors open at 6:15 and the performance begins at 7:00 p.m.. Fanfare books will be there with Christmas books for sale and will provide some of the funds earned to Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased on [Eventbrite.ca](http://Eventbrite.ca), ro-

[taryhospice.ca](http://taryhospice.ca) under the Events tab or by calling 519-508-4900

Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth provides a peaceful, comfortable home with 24-hour specialized palliative care for those living with a terminal illness as well as support for those in their circle of care. Since the first resident moved in on July 3, 2019, the clinical care team at Rotary Hospice has cared for 320 individuals in their end-of-life journey. This number does not reflect the many people in that individual's circle of care. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Hospice.

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Nov. 17 Jamie Aldrich, Denfield	\$50.00
Nov. 18 Joanne Ehgoetz, Stratford	\$200.00
Nov. 19 Jamie Gibb, Stratford	\$50.00
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Nov. 21 Sebastian D'Amico, Oshawa	\$50.00
Nov. 22 Theresa Martell, Stratford	\$50.00
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## Successful Fundraiser held on the weekend in memory of Stratford City Worker Rick Pauli



GARY WEST

*Times Correspondent*

A Shakespeare resident, along with his fellow workers, were out raising funds on the weekend for a fellow co-worker, who had suddenly passed away last year at the young age of 52.

Jeremy Witzel and his co-workers from the City of Stratford, wanted to honour their friend and city colleague, Rick Pauli, with a fundraising indoor golf tournament.

“Fore! Everyone Golf and Multi-Sport”

in Stratford, hosted the event on the weekend at their 4-HD-golf simulators inside their spacious facility at 1060 Ontario Street.

Witzel said “he was happy with the 80 golfers who came out to take part in the 10 hours of golf, as friends and family came together to raise \$1,942.70 for Crohns and Colitis Canada”.

He said “this was the 1st annual event in memory of Rick, and organizers are now planning on making it an annual outing due to it’s success, and in doing so raise money for a very worthwhile cause”.



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# New Business: Saine Nutrition, Licensed Holistic Nutritionist

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

You may know Jenna McNamara as the manager and a certified Aesthetician at Illume Wellness Spa. She has spent over a decade enhancing customers' experience through her knowledge and expertise in everything from skincare products to aesthetics. More recently, she has completed her certificate as a Licensed Holistic Nutritionist and is ready to serve Stratford in a whole new way.

As a recent graduate from the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition's intense Holistic Nutritionist program, McNamara now specializes in nutritional therapy and dietary education specifically related to women's health. She can help clients in meeting health and wellness targets by focusing on their individual needs and goals.

McNamara said that her work at Illume as an aesthetician propelled her to think more deeply about the relationship between nutrition and overall wellness, and that's why she decided to continue her education and enroll in the Natural Nutrition program, "I just got passionate about hormonal health and blood sugar fluctuations," she said, "I think there are so many women that focus self-care, but at the end of the day unless you're changing something internally, you may not be getting the desired results."

Discussing her desire to talk about hormonal acne when she was in high school propelled her to focus on women's health and hormones in her current practice, McNamara said, "I wish I had someone like me to talk to when I was a teenager," she continued, "I knew something was wrong hormonally, but I didn't really have any-



## OVERALL WELLNESS

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jenna McNamara, Licensed Holistic Nutritionist, cooking up healthy options to promote her new business, Saine Nutrition

one to talk to about it so I now can be that person for someone else."

Focusing on women's health has always been a passion for McNamara. As an aesthetician, she notices the importance of one-on-one time with women of all ages, "One thing I really liked about aesthetics is that it provides this close connection between people," she continued, "There's something about women talking to each other for an hour is just magical and therapeutic."

Through her experience of becoming an entrepreneur and building her practice, McNamara has noticed Stratford boasts a close and connected community of women entrepreneurs and is happy to be a part

of this community. "Stratford has such a good entrepreneurial community," she said, "I feel like this is the perfect place to be and build my own business. With the support of Illume and other female entrepreneurs, I am just really excited to see my business thrive here."

In the future, McNamara would like to build on her practice by offering free education through a podcast or social media that will be accessible to ev-

eryone, regardless of status, "I sometimes feel like everything is so transactional," she said, "I'd love to be able to offer a service that everyone can access without barriers."

McNamara's current focus is on women's health and wellness, and her areas of expertise include weight strategy, food allergies, Holistic skincare (including acne, rosacea, etc.), family nutrition and general women's hormone health. Women of all ages and backgrounds can book a consultation with her to discuss their specific goals and targets.

Saine Nutrition is your go-to place for expert guidance and healthy lifestyle habits that stick. You can book a consultation with McNamara online at [www.sainenu-trition.ca](http://www.sainenu-trition.ca). Saine Nutrition offers in-person or virtual appointments at Illume Wellness Spa on Mondays and Tuesdays.

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## Fighting Irish win three in a row

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

An unsteady start to the season for the Stratford Fighting Irish appears to have been put back on track with the local Western Ontario Super Hockey League squad riding a three-game winning streak into their game this Saturday against the Petrolia Squires.

On November 11th, the Fighting Irish hosted the Strathroy Jets at the William Allman Arena having lost two straight and three of their last four. After Stratford got out to a 1-0 lead in the first thanks to a powerplay goal by Ryan O'Bonsawin, both teams scored once in the second period, including a tally by Riley Coome.

In the third, Matt Henderson scored what went on to be the game-winner, followed just 28 seconds later by an insurance marker by Matt Granger. Strathroy got it back within two later in the third but Graham Brulotte found the back of the net to punctuate a 5-2 win for Stratford.

Six days later, a barn-burning affair took place at the Fergus Arena when the Fighting Irish visited the Elora Rocks. Colin Martin scored the lone Stratford goal in

the first period on a powerplay as they trailed 2-1 after the first frame, despite a 22-13 lead in shots for Stratford.

In the second, however, O'Bonsawin turned the game on its head with a second-period hat trick, two of which came on a man advantage. Matt Fuller's goal in the third proved to be the game-winner as Elora failed to find an equalizer. Goaltender Darren Smith made 44 saves as the Fighting Irish won 5-4, with the final shot clock reading 61-48 in Stratford's favour.

One day later, the Fighting Irish were back on the road, playing the Thunder in Tillsonburg. After two scoreless periods, Stratford came alive in the third, first with a goal by Dylan Buckholz just one minute and 31 seconds into the final frame. Brody Smith and Mav Petrie each posted a short-handed goal, with both Smith and Buckholz tallying their second of the night in the final two minutes and two seconds of the period to win it 5-0. Zack Weir picked up the 35-save shutout.

At the start of this week, the Fighting Irish sat in fourth place in the WOSHL, two points back of Strathroy and four back of Tillsonburg and Petrolia.



(FRED GONDER PHOTO)

### IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

Matt Henderson (#24) leads his teammates (#28 Sebastien Nogueira, #55 Riley Coome, and #18 Mav Petrie) to the bench to celebrate his goal against the Strathroy Jets on November 11th at William Allman Arena. The Fighting Irish prevailed by a score of 5-2.

### GOJHL STANDINGS

#### Midwestern Conference

(Standings through November 22, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Elmira Sugar Kings	23	17	5	0	1	35
<b>Stratford Warriors</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
Listowel Cyclones	21	15	5	1	0	31
KW Siskins	21	13	4	1	3	30
Cambridge Redhawks	20	10	9	1	0	21
Ayr Centennials	21	9	12	0	0	18
Brantford Bandits	22	5	17	0	0	10
Caledon Bombers	22	1	20	0	1	3

### WOSHL STANDINGS

(Standings through November 19, 2023)

	GP	W	L	OTL	T	PTS
Petrolia Squires	9	7	2	0	0	14
Tillsonburg Thunder	9	7	2	0	0	14
Strathroy Jets	11	6	5	0	0	12
Elora Rocks	8	5	3	0	0	10
<b>Stratford Fighting Irish</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
Alvinston Killer Bees	7	4	3	0	0	8
Tilbury Bluebirds	7	4	3	0	0	8
Delhi Flames	8	3	5	0	1	7
Dunnville Aeros	9	2	7	0	2	6
Woodstock Lakers	8	3	5	0	0	6
Orangeville Blitz	10	1	9	0	0	2

### STRATFORD WARRIORS

#### 2023-24 Player Statistics

(through November 22, 2023)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Braydon Stumpf	F	22	6	21	27
Michael Denney	F	22	18	6	24
Carson Harmer	F	20	10	13	23
Camden Daigle	F	22	7	16	23
Cole Lewis	F	22	8	12	20
Jaxon Broda	D	19	4	11	15
Casey Bridgewater	D	15	1	10	11
Joey Brehmer	F	22	4	6	10
Drew Agnew	F	21	3	6	9
Haden Frayne	D	19	2	6	8
Dylan Dundas	F	21	4	3	7
Jacob Wiseman	D	14	2	3	5
Liam Gorman	F	18	3	1	4
Tristian Huinink	F	13	3	1	4
Evan Hjelholt	D	15	0	4	4
Wyatt Adkins	D	15	0	4	4
Rhyse Brown	F	10	1	2	3
Zach Bell	F	17	2	0	2
Zachary Schooley	F	18	1	1	2
Cole Brooks	D	14	0	2	2
Owen England	D	15	0	1	1
Keaton Bartlett	D	10	0	1	1
Ben Graham	F	9	0	1	1
Gianmarco Caringi	F	3	0	1	1
PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%		
Matthew Perdue	10-5-1-0	2.85	.917		
Trenten Bennett	4-0-2-0	2.35	.904		

### STRATFORD FIGHTING IRISH

#### 2023-24 Player Statistics

(through November 22, 2023)

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Ray Robbins	F	6	4	5	9
Dylan Buckholz	F	8	3	5	8
Cameron Stokes	F	7	2	6	8
Matt Fuller	D	7	1	7	8
Cooper Leitch	F	8	3	4	7
Ryan O'Bonsawin	D	8	4	2	6
Matt Henderson	D	8	3	2	5
Graham Brulotte	F	5	2	3	5
Riley Coome	D	8	2	3	5
Sean O'Brien	F	4	1	4	5
Matt Granger	D	7	2	2	4
Brody Smith	F	7	2	2	4
Mav Petrie	F	8	2	1	3
Zachery Tierney	D	3	1	2	3
Michael Finlay	D	5	1	1	2
Colin Martin	F	8	1	1	2
Sebastien Nogueira	F	8	0	2	2
Warren Gorman	F	6	0	2	2
Justin Murray	D	2	0	2	2
Tye Campbell	F	4	1	0	1
Spencer Mills	F	6	0	1	1
Curtis Nogueira	F	6	0	0	0
Steven DeGroot	F	2	0	0	0
Daniel McCutcheon	F	2	0	0	0
PLAYER	RECORD	GAA	SV%		
Darren Smith	3-1-0	3.75	.907		
Zach Weir	2-2-0	2.75	.924		

# Warriors hit unsteady patch four-game win streak

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Times Regional Reporter

Following a four-game unbeaten stretch that included three straight victories during the first weekend of November, the Stratford Warriors hit a bit of an unsteady five-game segment of their season, going 2-2-1 since November 9th.

Head Coach Dave Williams told the Times that he has found a fair amount of positives in their last few games, but also some key items to work on.

“There have been parts of these last few games during which I think we’ve played some really good hockey,” said Williams. “There have been other parts where you can definitely see some areas that we need to improve upon and be more consistent in. The big focus for us is making sure that the intent of our actions and our competitiveness are consistently at a level that will allow us to win games.”

As of November 21st, the Warriors sat tied for second place in the Midwestern Conference with the white-hot Listowel Cyclones who have rocketed up the standings with nine wins in their last 10 games. The two teams sat at 31 points, four points behind the first-placed Elmira Sugar Kings and one point up on the fourth-ranked Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins.

“I think that, in the games that we’ve struggled in, we’ve had far too many turnovers especially in our own end and in the neutral zone,” Williams explained. “Not being able to manage that puck as well as we could have prevents us from extending opportunities in the offensive zone and forces us to play harder minutes

in the neutral zone and back in our own end.”

Williams also noted that, in the offensive zone, the team hasn’t quite been capitalizing on their high-danger opportunities the way they would like to.

“The other thing that we can continue working on is generating quality scoring opportunities. We’ve looked at a fair amount of video and data that we have internally and I think it comes down to being a bit more selfish in those good areas and ensuring that, when we do get into those good spots, either in the slot or the house, that our shots aren’t getting blocked or missing the net.”

On November 9th, the Warriors played their first of six interconference games of the season against the Hamilton Kilty B’s of the Golden Horsehoe Conference. Quick starts to the first two periods saw Hamilton score goals just 31 seconds into the first and one minute and five seconds into the second en route to a 3-2 win, hanging on in the third when Stratford outshot the Kilty B’s 16-6.

The following night, the Warriors hosted the Western Conference’s Chatham Maroons. Despite outshooting Chatham 46-27 in the game, both teams finished regulation with three goals each, sending the game into overtime. Carson Harmer scored the game-winner to give Stratford the extra point, while Jacob Wiseman scored twice in the game and Michael Denney had a goal and two assists.

The Warriors were then on the road to Brantford to take on the Bandits on

November 12th in what erupted into a high-scoring, back-and-forth affair. After a 17-13 narrow lead in shots after 20 minutes for the Warriors, Stratford led the shots 18-6 in the second before Brantford led 16-11 in the third. With the score at 5-4 for Stratford late in the third, the Bandits found a tying goal with just seven seconds left in regulation before going on to win it 6-5 in overtime. Denney once again had a great effort, notching a hat-trick while linemates Braydon Stumpf and Camden Daigle each had two assists. Stumpf also potted a goal of his own.

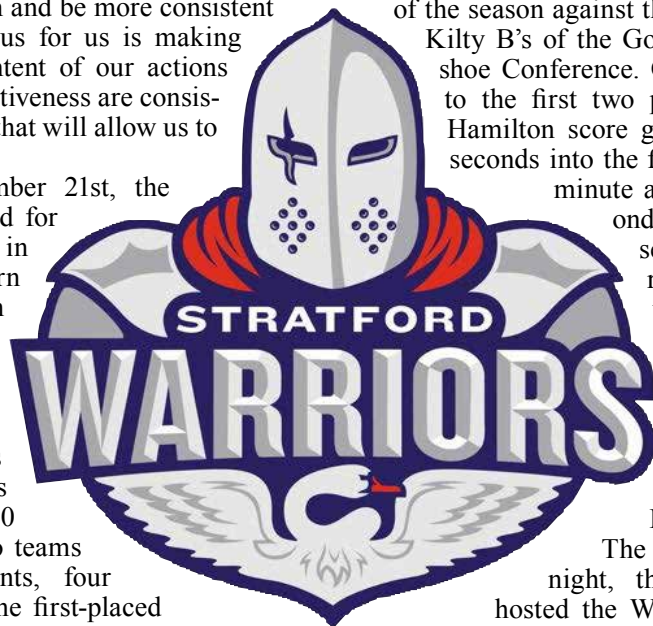
Stratford’s effort to bounce back when they returned home didn’t go as planned on November 17th when the Elmira Sugar Kings walked into the William Allman Arena and down the Warriors 5-2. Coach Williams noted that, while there have been certain things to improve on, their opponents have also earned their victories.

“Some nights, I think you have to give credit to the other team when they come in with a plan to win that game and they do a good job at being disciplined to their systems so it’s harder for your group to make the plays you want to make. I think for us personally, there is sometimes a need for better awareness about whether we have the numbers to try to make a play or if we might be outnumbered and the better option would be putting pucks behind their defenders and chasing them down. When we aren’t completely aware of those circumstances

around us, we end up mismanaging the puck.”

A luminescent night for the Warriors’ powerplay 48 hours later on the road in Elmira helped guide them to a 4-3 win over the Sugar Kings. Williams explained that the team’s puck movement by both powerplay units has allowed the Warriors to enjoy strong success with the man advantage.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 20





## STRATFORD Hunter Steel WARRIORS

### UPCOMING GAMES

Saturday, November 25- 8pm  
at Caledon - Mayfield Recreation Complex

Sunday, November 26 - 4:30pm  
vs Listowel - Allman Arena

Friday December, 1 - 7:30pm  
at Cambridge - Galt Arena Gardens

Saturday, December 2 - 7:00 pm  
at Cambridge - Galt Arena Gardens

Friday, December 8, - 7:30pm  
vs Brantford - Allman Arena

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(MARK DEWAN PHOTO)

## WINNING HANDSHAKE

St. Mike's Warriors celebrate after clinching the WOSSAA senior boys volleyball title.

For the St. Mike's Warriors, the recent WOSSAA senior volleyball competition was a successful tune-up for the upcoming OFSAA championships that are being hosted here at the school starting this week.

St. Mike's went undefeated on their home court on November 15-16, culminating in a straight-set 25-22, 25-18, 25-15 victory over St. Joe's in the final, earning the WOSSAA gold medal.

OFSAA this week gets underway in Stratford this week (November 23-25), with 20 teams from across the province competing for

the title. St. Michael CSS is one of five teams in Group D, along with North Park C&VS, Crestwood SS, Sir Winston Churchill, and Chippewa SS.

Round robins for each pool will take place on Thursday and Friday, with the playoffs getting underway at 4:30 p.m. at St. Mike's and at the Agriplex. The playoffs will continue until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 25 when the finals will take place at St. Mike's gymnasium.

To follow along and get the last results and schedule, visit [www.ofsaa.on.ca/championship/volleyball-boys-aa/](http://www.ofsaa.on.ca/championship/volleyball-boys-aa/), or better yet head out to St. Mike's or Burnside Agriplex this weekend and watch some amazing volleyball being played right here in Stratford.

## Warriors hit unsteady patch four-game win streak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

"With the powerplay, we're getting solid puck movement from both units. When you can get both groups contributing and scoring goals, I think it creates some internal competition between the groups to try to be the one that goes over the boards first or even gets a bit extra time. Both groups are moving the puck around fairly well and generating a decent volume of shots."

"We scored three powerplay goals in Elmira on Sunday night and one at home on Friday and all of those came primarily after quick-touch passes," Williams continued. "One of the things we've been talking about with our powerplay guys is underhandling the puck and trying to quick-touch it. It's not uncommon at this level for guys to overhandle the puck and I think, even if you have good puck movement, when you overhandle the puck, it gives the penalty killers a chance to find

their structure again."

It's not just Stratford's powerplay that has been effective recently. For the most part, they have enjoyed solid performances from their penalty kill which Williams said came as a result of the personnel being willing to do whatever is required of them.

"When it comes to the penalty kill, I think it comes down to a lot of hard work from the guys. In our end, I think we're playing fairly well structurally and as a group of four. As we've moved along here, we're starting to see more and more guys become willing to make a sacrifice and block shots and do some of those hard things that not every player wants to do. And, of course, you need goaltending because you're going to get exposed at some point and in those moments, you need your goaltender to be able to come up with a big save."

## Send in your sports reports

Coaches and/or parents are invited to send in your sports reports and pictures to the Stratford Times to let Stratford and area know how your teams are doing throughout the 2023-24 season (and to create some great scrapbook material to be reflected upon in future years). Game reports should be kept to a

maximum of 100 words. Please include a brief description of what happened during your games, including the names of those who scored and any special efforts made by your players.

Please have all reports and pictures in by the end of the month by emailing [stratfordtimes@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordtimes@gmail.com).



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Call our Branch office at 519-271-4540 to speak to Bill.

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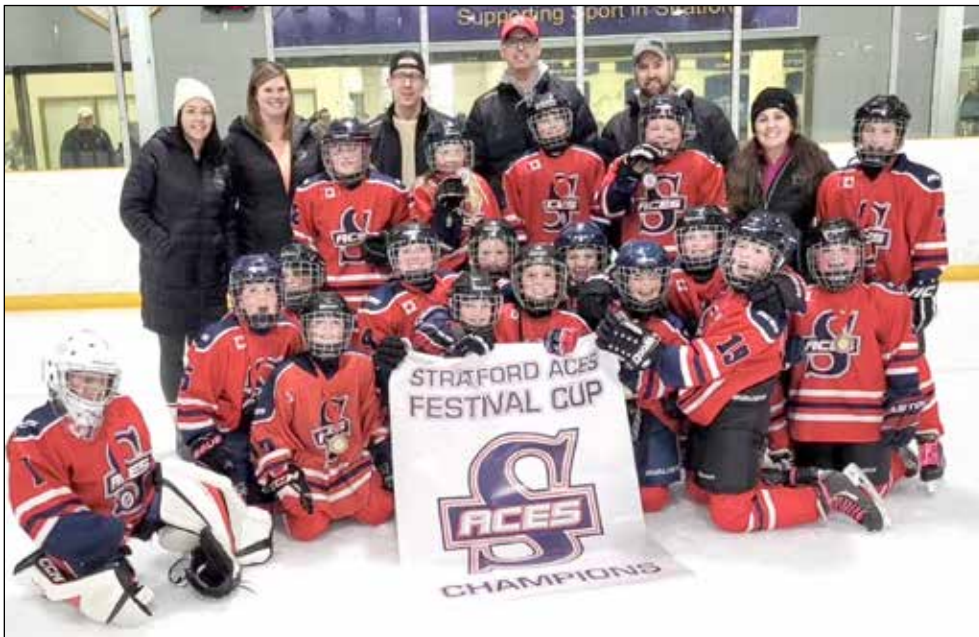


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**ACES U11C TAKE FESTIVAL CUP**

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Stratford Aces U11C hockey club was one of two Stratford teams to prevail during the Aces Festival Cup Challenge during the weekend of November 17-19.

Head coach Josh Bohnen told the Times, "It was a true team win with each and every player contributing to the team's overall performance. After going 1-1-1 in pool play, the girls really started to get rolling by beating St. Marys in the quarterfinals 4-1 and Lambeth in the semi finals 5-2. This set up a showdown in the finals against neighbour Central Perth who was the only team to beat the mighty Aces in the tournament during pool play. In the end, the Aces were too much in the finals and controlled the majority of play winning 2-1 and becoming Festival Cup champions!!"

Team members of the Romeo Optometry U11C Aces are goaltender Lauren Rossi, defenders Sophia Mounfield, Stella Zacher, Sydney Langis, Makayla Harrigan, Jenna Antonio, and Lily Bohnen, and forwards Allie Lambert, Raelynn Jacob, Charlie Munro, Brooklyn Cater, Luxe Ignore, Jillian Devereaux, Sabelle Ishe, Macy Green, Chloe Illman, Mia Larsen, and Emma Rogerson.

The coaching staff is comprised of Jessie Jacobs, Jordan Munro, Aaron Mounfield, and Josh Bohnen, trainers are Jennalyn Ignore, Meghan Cater, and Lyndsey Zacher, while the team manager is Sarah Devereaux.



**U13B's WIN ACES TOURNEY**

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

U13B head coach Josh Langis reported to the Stratford Times on their team's victory at the November 17-19 Aces Festival Cup, "Our girls played fantastic hockey, running a perfect 6-0 record for the weekend. We went down 1-0 in the first period of the championship game against the London Devillettes, but in the third period Kaitlyn Green had a fantastic shot to tie the game up and push us into overtime. In the first minute of overtime, we took a penalty and were left short-handed. After the draw in our defensive zone, Jillian Rossi picked up a loose puck and pushed through the London defence for a breakaway. She took a perfect shot from the high circle that found the top corner and solidified the championship win."

Team members are Olivia Willemsen, Jillian Rossi, Annie Thompson, Grace Elliot, Megan Keller, Leah Weicker, Caley Michel, Kaitlyn Green, Emry MacIntosh, Ava Langis, Edie Murray, Gracie Neumeister, Payton Medd, Cadi McKee, Elliot Berg, Lilly Harrigan. The coaching staff consists of Josh Langis, Josh Willemsen, Charlie Rossi, Matt Harrigan. Trainers are Alexandra Langis and Courtney MacIntosh and the manager is Mike Elliot.



(MARK DEWAN PHOTO)

**SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL WIN HURON-PERTH**

The St. Mike's Senior Girls won the Huron-Perth championship in convincing fashion on Tuesday, November 7th with a 49-22 victory over Mitchell. This win represented the school's 18th Huron-Perth title in the last 23 seasons under the leadership of coach Steve Goforth.



**U18 STRATFORD STINGERS**

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U18 Stratford Stingers started the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) season on a strong note by winning a silver medal in Leamington on November 11. The Stingers, coached by Chris Parson and Jenna Lange, took their first four games in straight sets, and fought well during the gold Medal game.

From L-R, back row: coach Chris Parson, Summer Emms, Emelyn Collins, Ellen Thorup, Milayna Mulder, Ella De Graaf, Breanna Van Nes, Eva Patterson, Virginia Will, Ella Spicer, and coach Jenna Lange. Front row: Aydrie Groenestege, Lauren McKay, Ella Van Bakel, Pihu Sharma.

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# Marva Wisdom: Recognized for her contribution to Ontario in Community Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

"I come from parents who believe in giving," said Marva Wisdom, Senior Equity and Leadership Practitioner, Senior Fellow at Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto and now one of 26 new appointments to the Order of Ontario.

Wisdom's appreciation and love for her family shine while speaking to The Stratford Times this past week with regard to recently being recognized with the province's highest civilian honour for her long-time volunteer and community leadership work.

Wisdom, along with her parents, Edward and Eva Bailey and her siblings moved to Stratford when Wisdom was just 14 years old after immigrating here from Jamaica.

"I'm just so honoured and grateful. There are so many wonderful people trying to make the world a better place and to be recognized as one of them, I am just honoured," she said.

Wisdom currently lives in Guelph but has strong ties to Stratford. She started school upon coming to Canada at Waterloo

Oxford in Baden and then later attended Stratford District for high school.

Caring for her parents, Wisdom visits Stratford weekly and also sits on the Stratford on Maitland District School Board as an external coach and advisor to their senior team around equity and inclusion.

Although her life experiences have led her to her career in community equity and leadership, Wisdom notes the importance of her first job, right here in Stratford, "My first real job as a teenager was at MacDonaldis in Stratford," she continued, "I never felt 'othered'. The owner, John Wilson, treated the crew like family. There, I overcame my shyness, and for the first time, I was recognized for service."

Wisdom's work has provided insights into enhancing diversity, inclusion, and belonging. "It's not just about equity and inclusion so much, but it's how do we make safe space for each other in society," said Wisdom, "How do we make space for those who are from equity-seeking groups, where systemic discrimination has been a barrier."

"My favourite thing is looking at people as a fullness to be discovered rather than an emptiness to be failed," said Wisdom,

"I don't know exactly who said that quote, but just seeing and helping someone be the best person that they can be in their own skin, and acknowledging them by seeing who they really are is important."

In Wisdom's early days of volunteering, she started to understand the importance of her work in inclusion, and this is where she learned to stand up for what is right and teach



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Massey Journalism Fellow, University of Toronto and co-founder of Media Girlfriends; Eva Bailey, Entrepreneur and Mom; and Marva Wisdom, Senior Equity & Leadership Practitioner, Senior Fellow at Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, U of T and recipient of the Order of Ontario, 2023.

others the importance of it. "I recognized that I really needed to be the change that I wanted to see," she said, "I needed to do something about what I was seeing, the type of leadership that sometimes underpins exclusion and discrimination and how we help to strengthen leadership that builds inclusion and builds collaboration."

Her life in Stratford left her feeling somewhat alone, as one of the only black children in school at the time, "When I was growing up in Stratford and certainly when I moved to go to college in Toronto, I still had that feeling that I had to represent the entire black community. I always felt that I was judged as a group as opposed to judge as Marva."

But later on, after attending a conference where Michael Adams of Environics Institute spoke, Wisdom learned that others felt the same way as her, "[Adams] talked about what immigrants brought to Canada

and the importance of our contribution to the Canadian economy, the Canadian social fabric and I have never heard immigrants spoken about in such good light and positivity."

"And that's where the Black Experience Project was born."

"I had a chance to work on a project and provide leadership on a project with the community with the black community," said Wisdom. "The stories that I used to think were isolated, the ones that I thought were just my experience, but I got to hear some of those stories and found out that many people in my community were experiencing the same things that I was experiencing, and that was life-changing."

Wisdom's current work helps to transform the Black experience here in Ontario by providing insights into enhancing diversity, inclusion and belonging across society.

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# New Holiday Tradition Unveiled in Stratford

Brace yourself for an extraordinary holiday experience that will fill your heart with the spirit of the season as "A Stratford Christmas" takes the stage for one spectacular show on December 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the renowned Stratford Festival Theatre.

"A Stratford Christmas," produced by the Stratford Arts & Culture Collective, is a heartwarming concert that combines the joy of seasonal music, Broadway classics, and inspirational favorites. The event features a stellar lineup of world-class artists

such as Stratford Festival favourites Erica Peck (Rent) and Laura Condlin (Cassie and Diana) and will be hosted by award-winning stage and film actress Sheila McCarthy and David Rogers (Phantom of the Opera, Stratford Starbright) with Music Direction is by Mark Payne. This is an event you won't want to miss.

"A Stratford Christmas" will showcase local and homegrown talent like Anika and Britta Johnson and Jake Stern along with the Stratford Concert Choir, promising a truly awe-inspiring experience. The

combined power of a full choir in the magnificent Stratford Festival Theatre is set to create an ambiance like no other, making it a musical event to remember.

In the true spirit of giving, "A Stratford Christmas" is proud to support the local community. A portion of the proceeds from this heartwarming show will be donated to two deserving local charities: Optimism Place and Shelterlink Youth Services. By attending this event, you not only enjoy a memorable holiday experience but also contribute to the betterment

of your community.

Mark your calendars for December 16, and be part of this new Stratford tradition. Don't miss your chance to join in the festivities, warmth, and magic of "A Stratford Christmas." Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, so secure yours today for the most enchanting holiday event of the year. Tickets are available online at [www.stratfordfestival.ca/Christmas](http://www.stratfordfestival.ca/Christmas) or by calling the Stratford Festival box office at 1-800-567-1600.

## Notice of Study Commencement

### Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study Highway 7/8 and Perth County Road 111 Intersection Improvements (GWP 3083-21-00)

#### THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd. (McIntosh Perry) to undertake the Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the Highway 7/8 and Perth County Road 111 intersection improvements, boundary of the City of Stratford and the Township of Perth East, County of Perth.

#### THE PROCESS

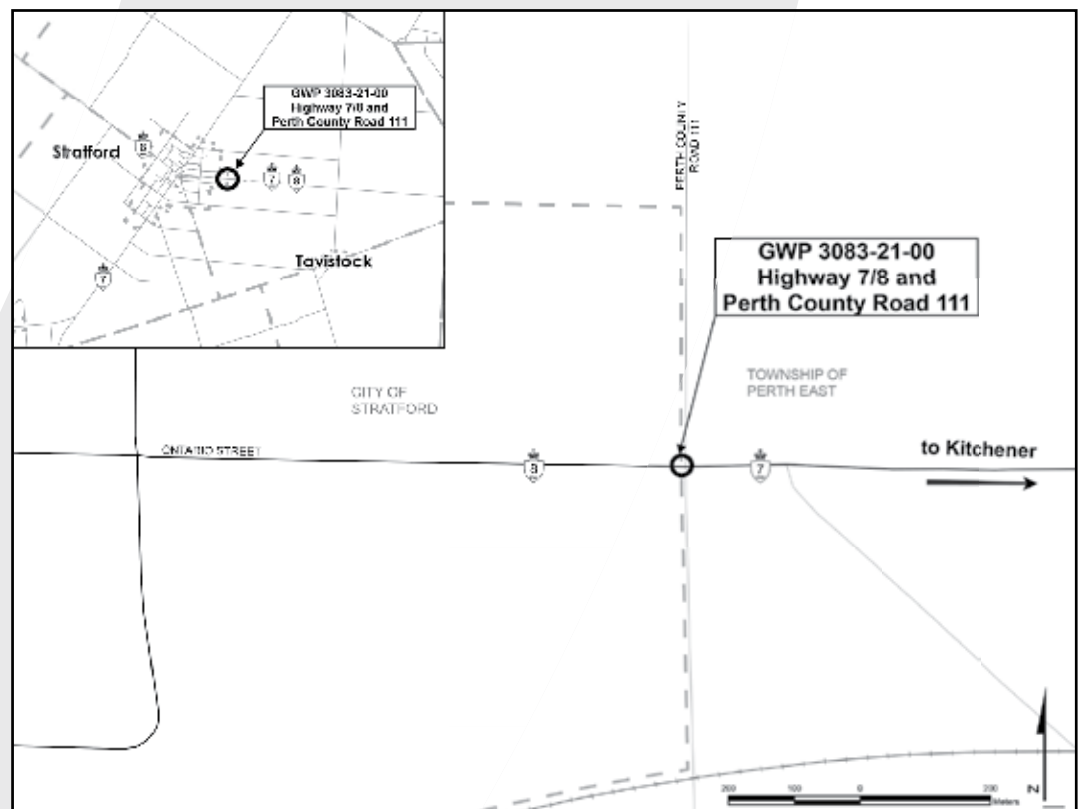
The Preliminary Design is following the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project in accordance with the Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000).

The Preliminary Design will include the generation of alternatives and evaluation, based on technical and environmental factors. Consultation will take place throughout the study. One virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to comment. Throughout the study, information will be updated on the Project Website at [www.highway7and8perthcountyroad.com](http://www.highway7and8perthcountyroad.com).

Upon completion of the Preliminary Design, a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) will be prepared. The TESR will document the existing conditions of the study area, the evaluation of the alternatives, and identify the preferred plan and commitments to future work. The TESR will be made available for a 30-day comment period at the completion of the Preliminary Design.

#### COMMENTS

We encourage you to visit the Project Website at any time during the study for updates on this project. If you require further information or have accessibility requirements in order to participate, please contact one of the individuals named below. Any comments or questions can be directed to one of the following project team members and are respectfully requested by **December 23, 2023**:



**Mr. Steven Pilgrim, P.Eng.**  
Project Manager  
McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd.  
1-1329 Gardiners Road  
Kingston, ON K7P 0L8  
tel: 343-344-2629 or  
toll-free: 1-888-348-8991  
e-mail: [highway7and8@mcintoshperry.com](mailto:highway7and8@mcintoshperry.com)

**Ms. Wendy Xu, P.Eng.**  
Project Engineer  
Ontario Ministry of Transportation  
3rd Flr, 659 Exeter Road,  
London, ON N6E 1L3  
tel: 548-588-1937  
e-mail: [wendy.xu@ontario.ca](mailto:wendy.xu@ontario.ca)

Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments become part of the public record.

Notice issued on: November 24, 2023

# The Stratford and area Master Gardeners plant pollinators to support local wildlife

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Stratford and area Master Gardeners plant pollinators around Stratford

"This season is a great time to plant local, native trees," said Don Farwell, Stratford and Area Master Gardeners Member, "You can plant them any time, up until the ground is frozen."

With the ever-changing climate, the Stratford and area Master Gardeners are doing their part to plant and maintain native trees and shrubs that promote pollination in and around Stratford. "We're raising awareness of the importance of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses," said Farwell, "We always think of pollinators needing flowers, but for the larval stage, they need to have leaves, too."

The Stratford and area Master Gardeners have been hard at work planning native trees and shrubs around Stratford to promote pollination. This includes a recent project by the Stratford General Hospital, "It was all weeds, and there was one invasive plant there," said Farwell, "So we dug that out, got a group of people together and over a period of a week, had it cleaned up. We planted an oak tree there and several shrubs. In the spring, we'll plant wildflower perennials, too."

Most recently, the gardeners planted a red oak tree at Optimism Place, "We had funding from the from the Community Foundation from the Stuart McTavish fund and so we wanted to make use of it for a good cause," said Farwell.

"It was a well-timed and welcome donation from the Stratford Master Gardeners," said Jasmine Clark, Executive Director at Optimism Place, "Don and his team gen-

erously donated their time to plant a beautiful Red Oak Tree on the north end of our property. Appropriately named, Oaks are known as the Tree of Life. Once mature, this sturdy and steadfast Oak will provide safe shelter in its canopy for native birds and species, much like our shelter provides to women we serve."

Farwell says that planting native trees and shrubs is very important in building a healthy and promising local landscape for our pollinators and wildlife. He recommends sticking to native trees to do so, "The oak, willows, maple and cherry trees are all top-notch pollinator plants," he said, "the non-native trees might be pretty, but they don't support the local wildlife."

"For example, the ginkgo tree is a really pretty tree that comes from China originally, but it supports basically zero wildlife," said Farwell, "It's a nice street tree and has a wonderful shape leaf, but it doesn't support our local wildlife. A native tree supports something like 500 different species of insects, and the ginkgo tree supports between zero and five species."

Farwell notes that next spring, the Stratford and area Master Gardeners will work with the Stratford Public Library to plant their garden, where they plan to introduce plenty of native shrubs and plants with the goal of promoting and teaching the importance of pollination in Stratford.

If you're looking for ways to help support local wildlife and promote pollination, Farwell says, "native trees and shrubs are the way to go."

You can find out more about what the Stratford and area Master Gardeners are up to on their website at [www.stratford-mastergardeners.ca](http://www.stratford-mastergardeners.ca)



## TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

Stratford and Area Master Gardeners members Elizabeth Spedaliere, Don Farwell, Felicity Sutcliffe and Stuart McTavish outside Optimism Place standing beside the newly planted Red Oak Tree.

(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

# Proposal to Advance Stratford's Community-Focused Climate Action

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A report titled "Proposal to Advance Stratford's Community-focused Climate Action" was brought forth at the November 14 council meeting to address the need for municipal funding to go towards a data expert to address the rising concerns regarding climate change.

The community-tailored Climate Action

Plan was presented to the council back in October and states that it aims to reduce energy costs and emissions through targeted strategies.

Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager for The City of Stratford, spoke on behalf of the city's climate action plan to request funding to be directed in support of a researcher to understand better how to implement the proposed climate action plan for the city.

It was requested by council that the funding for the Climate Action Plan be deferred to the 2024 budget; however, Ghalib did note that if the city does not use this funding, it may lose it as the specific government funding was specifically for use in 2023.

Councillor Henderson did raise concerns regarding the effectiveness of using a consultant and said, "I want to be sure if we're

spending X amount of dollars, we will see X amount of progress."

After the initial presentation, Bill James-Abra, co-founder and coordinator of Climate Momentum, and Shiela Clark, activist, researcher and writer of Climate Momentum, urged council to support the funding for data experts to support the community climate action plan in Stratford and spoke on the importance of addressing climate issues at a municipal level.

"Municipal governments are fundamental to achieving local, community-based emission reductions because you're the level of government that can facilitate, partner, educate and create a plan," James-Abra said, "Every community in Canada is at risk because of climate change. And while the situation is growing more dangerous, and the costs are astronomical, meaningful action is possible."

Clarke discussed the necessity of understanding the impact of greenhouse gas emissions caused locally and said, "Forty-four percent of all greenhouse gas emis-

sions in Canada are directly or indirectly under the control of local municipalities."

"There's an opportunity here for us as a community, and we want to work with you," said James-Abra, "We've made a decent start in the past three years since we declared a climate emergency. We've set targets for greenhouse gas reduction. We've hired a Climate Change Program Manager. We've set a corporate emissions plan in motion. And now, we need a data expert and a Community Climate Action Plan to keep it going."

Council members did agree to allow funding to hire an expert data researcher to aid in climate action after discussing the impact that person would bring. However, the requested funding for the research consultant was reduced from \$70,000 to a service cost of up to \$50,000.

The Community Climate Action Plan is being developed in phases. The process to select a consultant will occur now that funding has been received and matching funds provided by the City. At this time, the contract length is unknown.



## The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS)

Inviting all eligible Canadian Forces Personnel, Ex-Service Members, their respective spouses, widows, and dependents seeking assistance for programs and services offered by Veterans Affairs Canada to meet with our Service Officer the last Saturday of every month between 10:00am and 1:00pm (by appointment only).

All interested parties are asked to contact President Stephen Cooper at 519-271-3113 to book a date for a consultation.

151 Lorne Avenue, East Stratford, Ontario N5A 6S4

# New Humane Society KWSP welcomes Victoria Baby as new CEO

EMILY STEWART

Times Correspondent

Victoria Baby brings passion for animals and leadership experience to her new role as CEO of the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth.

The organization announced Baby's appointment as the new CEO in a November 8 press release. Baby started working for the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth on November 13. Kathrin Delutis, the outgoing CEO, will retire in December 2023 and is guiding Baby until then.

The Stratford Times spoke with Baby on November 15, which was her third day on the job. So far, she is enjoying her new position.

"Definitely enjoying all of the people here, all of the animals, learning a lot, and feeling like I'm part of a wonderful team," Baby said.

She worked for non-profit organizations, both government and non-government funded, throughout her career. Baby's supported seniors, people with disabilities, and animals and took on several positions such as COO (chief operating officer), manager, and vice-president.

"I enjoy working with teams. I certainly relish working in the not-for-profit, utilizing my leadership skills and applying them in the not-for-profit world," she said.

Baby admires the passion for animals found throughout the Humane Society of



(NASREEN OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY PHOTO)

## PASSION FOR ANIMALS

Victoria Baby, the new CEO of the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth, is fulfilling her life-long love of animals through her new leadership position.

Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth team. She has the same passion for animals, their welfare, and the human-animal

connection.

"All my life, I've been an animal lover," Baby said. "I don't think I've ever been

without an animal in my life. I've always been very compassionate about how we treat our animals, how we need to be a voice for them, because there is no voice and I think that it was part of the way I was raised, and I continue and I've raised my family the same way. We're all animal lovers and we all own animals because they're such an integral part of our family."

She always rescued animals and encourages others to do the same.

"I always say to people who lose an animal that your animal, if they could say one thing to you, they would say 'Go adopt another one right away and give them the great home that you gave me.'"

As the new CEO of the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo and Stratford Perth, Baby plans to continue the strategic plan mandate of promoting the bond between humans and animals, as well as help those struggling to cover essential pet care costs to make sure their pets stay with them for as long as possible. She also wants to ensure there's sustainable funding to keep programs like the Pet Pantry operating.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with the board and the team here," Baby said. "I'm looking forward to completing our strategic priorities that making the Humane Society, keeping its name out there in the community so people can come to us when they need to and just having people understand and value and respect animals."

# Lights On Stratford to Transform Tom Patterson Island into Space Island

Space exploration will be a lot closer to home this winter with the Lights On Stratford re-mounting of 2020's popular Journey to the Stars exhibit together with Lunar Lamp Posts, a new interactive light art installation.

"As one of the most popular light installations ever hosted at Lights On Stratford, we are excited to bring back the sun and planets to Tom Patterson Island, but this time we're adding the spectacular Lunar Lamp Posts interactive light display, coming all the way from Australia," said Zac Gribble, Executive Director, Destination Stratford and Festival Director, Lights On Stratford. "With the overhead and bridge lighting added to the

mix, these elements will all combine to create Space Island. We can't wait to welcome all travellers on the interstellar journey!"

The theme for this winter's Lights On Stratford is Emergence, and festival organizers decided to focus on space exploration for the island location, the last stop along the Light Trail connecting Market Square to Tom Patterson Island.

"Tom Patterson Island is such a special place. No matter the season, the island is a welcoming and cozy escape right in Stratford's backyard," said Kaileigh Krysztofiak, General Manager, Lights On Stratford. "This winter our little escape over the bridge will

have you traveling lightyears, and we are over-the-moon excited to share it with you!"

Prepare to be mesmerized this winter with interactive displays up nightly Thursday through Sunday from 5-10p.m.. The 4th an-

nual Lights On Stratford is free to the public and set to launch on December 15th, 2023 until January 13th, 2024.

Visit [lightsonstratford.ca](http://lightsonstratford.ca) for more details.



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# Ebenezer Scrooge meet Walt Wingfield

ALLAN DICKIE

*Times Contributor*

Actually, that's not as big a stretch as it seems since the 19th Century miser of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and the 20th Century whimsical farmer in the Wingfield plays are both given life and voice by Stratford's Rod Beattie.

Beattie, an actor for 50 years, occupies a unique niche in Canadian theatre. In both instances, he plays every role, more than 30 in the Wingfield plays and 29 in *A Christmas Carol*. One-person shows are usually monologues, but not with Beattie whose astounding memory and acting chops traverses the genre.

His adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* will be presented at the Stratford Perth Museum on two consecutive weekends in December.

The Wingfield portfolio, consisting of

seven plays, written by the eminent Canadian playwright Dan Needles and produced and directed by Doug Beattie, have been welcomed in Canadian towns and cities for 30 years. The triumvirate created a Canadian institution.

The plays struck a chord with Canadians and set records few productions can match. So far, there have been more than 4,800 performances in cities, towns and communities across the country from Nova Scotia to Vancouver Island.

Both Beattie and Needles have been invested in the Order of Canada for their contributions to Canadian theatre. Beattie's 2018 citation concludes: "his commitment to performing in small communities has helped enliven rural theatre and generated artistic opportunities outside Canada's major urban centres."

For *A Christmas Carol*, Beattie adapted the story as a project during the pandem-

ic. He has a Master's Degree in English from the University of Toronto - where he counted the internationally acclaimed author Robertson Davies as a tutor - so, he's familiar with the classical novelists.

"My version is a play, not a recital" Beattie emphasizes. "One of the themes of Dickens' works is the effects of industrialism on English society in the 19th century. I wanted to reflect that."

His favourite quote in the Dickens story involves the downtrodden Bob Cratchit as he attempts to warm himself with a flickering candle after Scrooge denies him coal. "Not being a man of strong imagination, he failed."

Beattie says Wingfield and Scrooge have a strange commonality: "Both are brilliant businessmen. Both have confronted the dehumanizing effect their financial success has brought. Ebenezer's response is to turn his back on humanity and ignore

what humanistic instincts he had. Walt's more Canadian response is to try to forge a new more humane path, 'back to the land', and try to earn a living on the farm."

"But neither man loses what made their success in the first place - their imagination" Beattie says.

Ebenezer brings him to an eleventh hour 'intervention' from the spirits and brings about an epiphany. Walt's more mundane and, dare I say it, more Canadian imagination brings him to the realization that nothing is more important in life than being 'a good neighbour'."

Rod Beattie will bring to life the 29 characters in his version of *A Christmas Carol* at the Stratford Perth Museum on December 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17.

Tickets can be purchased at the Stratford Perth Museum website ([stratfordperthmuseum.ca](http://stratfordperthmuseum.ca)).

## O'Pears Concert at Avondale to deliver cozy winter tunes

EMILY STEWART

*Times Correspondent*

Avondale United Church will welcome the winter season with a concert featuring Ontario folk music trio the O'Pears.

The concert, the first in a new music series by Avondale, will be held at the church on 194 Avondale Avenue on December 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. The O'Pears will mostly perform songs from their 2018 album *Stay Warm*, which features lots of winter-themed tracks and a few Christmas songs. The daughter of Paul Harris and Karen Brown, members of Avondale Annual Music Series Team, Jill Harris is part of the O'Pears along with Meg Conti and Lydia Persaud.

"We found that no matter what someone's taste is, they will find something to enjoy in this concert," Paul said. "In the

vocal harmonies, the music, and the originality of it. They'll hear familiar songs but they will also hear songs that the band has written. We think it's something that has potential to be enjoyed by a very large number of people."

Jill is looking forward to performing at Avondale United Church. The community within the church supported her parents when they moved to Stratford about a year ago.

"Avondale has really welcomed them," Jill said. "I've visited the church too and they've really welcomed me. I'm excited to bring my band there. It's such a loving group of people."

Winter and the coziness that comes from staying in during chilly and snowy days is an integral part of The O'Pears history as a band.

"Through our years playing as a band

and touring through the country, we played a lot of shows through the winter and driving through Canada and the winter," Jill said. "A lot of our writing together was during that period of time - what it was like to experience the darkness, the cozy feeling you can have, the time with your family and friends."

The trio will be accompanied with additional vocalists, a guitarist, and a ukelelist. The concert will still try to replicate the cozy feeling that came with the home concerts held by the trio only.

"When it was just the three of them, they would often just go into somebody's house, sit in the living room," Karen said. "It would be very, very cozy, and do their songs. That's the kind of feeling we want - even though our stage at Avondale is very large - we're going to try to make it feel like it's in somebody's home and it's cozy."

Proceeds from the O'Pears concert will support the church's outreach programs. Avondale United Church supports Stratford House of Blessing, the Emily Murphy Centre, among others, and runs a food shelf program to help those in need.

"The more money we can get, the more we can offer that support," Paul said. "I've been there when people are coming to use the food shelf at the church and the need has grown a huge amount in the last year. What we're trying to do is make our musical presence come together with our desire to do more outreach."

Tickets are \$25 each and can either be purchased in-person at Treasures, by sending an email to [avondaleuc@wightman.ca](mailto:avondaleuc@wightman.ca), calling 519-271-7946, or visiting [www.ticketscene.ca/events/46365](http://www.ticketscene.ca/events/46365).

## Successful AI experience at Café Bouffon

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

As part of the Provocation Ideas Festival, Café Bouffon hosted a night of artificial intelligence (AI)-curated blind tastings of canapés and paired beverages where attendees were able to vote on which ones were better with regard to flavour.

The Provocation Ideas Festival completed its series at Café Bouffon this past weekend and, through their program, aimed to tackle complex topics through vibrant public discussion, art, theatre, film, music, storytelling, and more.

"We wanted to use a multimedia way of looking at AI," said Rosenfeld, "From storytelling to audio installations or music or film issues that affect us. Looking at the future of our cities, climate change, climate crisis, and social inequality, [the Provocation and Ideas Festival's] intention is to present diverse perspectives and be provocative in the best sense of the term by helping to envision new ideas regarding AI."

This partnership with Café Bouffon was

a unique way to integrate AI technology into food curation. Attendees were invited to join the Café Bouffon staff for a technologically enhanced social event. Half of these culinary creations were crafted by Chef Courtney Noble and Manager Steve Doyle of Café Bouffon, while the other half had been prepared under the guidance of Artificial Intelligence. Those in attendance got the chance to see if their culinary-tasting skills could identify if the canapés were curated by AI or Café Bouffon staff.

The evening was set up like a social hour where attendees were encouraged to discuss AI technology while trying different foods curated by either the team at Café Bouffon or by AI. "The idea is that you should be mingling and discussing the application of AI," said Larry McCabe, Owner of Café Bouffon, "This is a discussion about AI. It's structured on the idea of a salon, which is often an opportunity for many different people to get together around contemporary issues and have discussions."

Canapés, such as Creamy Lobster Vol



au Vent and Raspberry Chocolate Ganache Tartlets, were paired with alcoholic and non-alcoholic pairings, such as Raspberry Mint Sparkling Water or a Classic Champagne Cocktail, and attendees had fun deciding if they were made by AI or not.

McCabe noted the importance of look-

ing at AI on a larger scale by seeing ways that humans could utilize the technology to advance and enhance the future of reducing waste, "I think there's also an opportunity for reducing waste across the supply chain in the food industry [with AI application]," he said, "Those are some of the things I'm very excited about. I think it's very important."

Mark Rosenfeld, Provocation Ideas Festival Founding Director, noted his gratitude for the festival, which ended on the night of Café Bouffon's Salon AI experience, "[The Provocation Ideas Festival] aimed to provide different ways of approaching the issue of AI and how it affects us personally and as a community," he said.

For those who couldn't attend the event, McCabe noted there is a new menu item on Pazzo Pizzeria's menu, created with AI. This menu item is available for anyone to try throughout the season and has also been quite successful with staff and visitors, "We quite like it. That was a surprise, something we created in about 45 seconds using ChatGPT."

## MUSINGS: It's Hard to Let Go



**MARK HERTZBERGER**

*Times Freelance Columnist*

Over the past few months, a John Lennon lyric has been bouncing around in my head:

*Last night the wife said:*

*Oh boy when you're dead,*

*You don't take nothin' with you*

*But your so-oul.*

Actually, this is a good thing to keep in mind if you're in the process of downsizing like we are. For a number of reasons,

medical issues not the least of them, Yvonne and I have sold our current home and will be relocating to a much smaller space at the end of January.

Our old cottage has seen many owners come and go over its 140 plus years here in Stratford. We are simply the last in a long line of occupants, including a brickmaker, hotelkeeper/city councilor, yardman, engine inspector, and someone called a "billiardist". The shadows we leave behind will soon seep between the floor boards like dust and a new layer of history will settle in quietly.

Meanwhile, many of our larger furniture pieces and boxes of "keepsakes" can no longer be kept. So many memories are attached to these treasures and to the house and gardens Yvonne has so lovingly created here. The decisions about what to keep are difficult. Yet these are, after all,

only material possessions, subject to decay and disappearance on this earthly plane – right? Well, yes, but it is human to hurt and hurt it sometimes does.

But I also started thinking about scale and intensity here. How can I really complain about my own troubles amid the news reports that arrive day by day, hour by hour? Since the beginning of history young people have been exploited to fight the wars of old men and politicians. Thanks to modern media, all of us are now witnesses to the destruction of human beings, their families, homes, businesses and cultures. Memories and dreams are crushed into the dirt beneath tanks and army boots. Even hospitals can provide no guarantee of sanctuary. We're not just talking about selling antiques and knickknacks on Kijiji here.

Unimaginable in our own

country, we might think. But who could have imagined the 2021 attack on Washington, or predicted that truckers would immobilize our own nation's capitol? Amid all this, I try to keep my own minor losses in perspective but wonder how we can possibly have any positive influence on these massive injustices. One way is to simply refuse to take sides – other than the side of the oppressed and the helpless - those who have no voice or choice in the matter. Not all Palestinians support Hamas. Not all Russians support Putin. Not all Israelis support Netanyahu. And, dare I say it, not all Germans supported the Nazis. The "battle" of the average citizen is to stay alive and protect their families amid hellish events that are not of their own making.

So, when I open my mouth to spin out support for one side or

another I try to close it again. I question whether I truly have all the background information and history I need to form an educated opinion. Have I considered all the angles? Or am I adding to the simplistic slogans and divisiveness that are permeating our society? I try not to believe everything I hear. More importantly, I try not to believe everything I think. Not an easy task these days. Perhaps I've said too much already.

*Mark Hertzberger is a former social services supervisor, human resources manager, conflict mediator, and literacy practitioner. He has since freed his mind and now writes poetry and occasional opinionated columns. Mark has lived in Perth County for 27 years, the last 12 of which have been in Stratford where he resides with his wife, novelist Yvonne Hertzberger.*

## Embracing Gratitude as the Holidays Approach



**IRENE ROTH**

*Times Freelance Columnist*

As the holiday season approaches, it's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of festivities, gift shopping, and social gatherings. Then there are all the black Friday specials. They seem to run for a whole month with merchants trying to convince us we can purchase our way to happiness and inner bliss.

However, we all know that the holidays can be a difficult time for many. We may struggle because we don't have a lot of money to buy gifts for everyone. We may believe that we have to buy gifts on credit just to please

certain family members. This can cause undue stress and hardship for many people, making this season one of the hardest to enjoy.

It's important for us to remember to enjoy the season. Amidst the chaos, we should take the time to pause and reflect on the true spirit of the holidays. Gratitude is a powerful force that can transform the way we experience this joyous season.

Here are some tips to gratefully enjoy the holidays and make the most of this special time.

### 1. Cultivate a Grateful Mindset

Start by adopting a mindset of gratitude. Instead of focusing on what you lack or what could be better, shift your attention to the abundance around you. Reflect on the positive aspects of your life, the relationships you cherish, and the experiences that have shaped you. A grateful mindset lays the foundation for a more fulfilling holiday experience.

### 2. Make Space to Express Your Gratitude

Many of us don't take the time to thank the people in our lives

for helping us and gracing our lives. We simply take it for granted. We can express gratitude by writing heartfelt notes, making a phone call, or even hosting a gratitude-themed gathering. Sharing your appreciation not only strengthens your connections, but also spreads positivity and joy during the holiday season.

### 3. Savor the Simple Moments

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the holidays, there are so many little things that can put a smile on our face. Whether it's sipping hot cocoa by the fireplace, taking a winter walk, or enjoying a quiet moment of reflection, savoring the simple moments can bring a profound sense of gratitude and peace. This will make the holidays brighter.

### 4. Practice Mindful Gift-Giving

When selecting gifts for loved ones, focus on the thought and sentiment behind the present rather than the price. Consider gifts that align with the recipient's interests or needs. Thoughtful gift-giving enhances the joy of both giving and receiving. Who knows, you may

even start a new tradition of gift-giving.

### 5. Create Meaningful Traditions

Establishing meaningful traditions can infuse the holiday season with a sense of purpose and connection. Whether it's volunteering together as a family, crafting handmade decorations, or sharing stories by the fire, traditions create lasting memories and deepen the appreciation for the season.

### 6. Disconnect to Reconnect

In the digital age, it's easy to get caught up in the virtual world, especially during the holidays. Take a break from your screens and social media in order to fully immerse yourself in the present moment. Engage in face-to-face conversations, play games, and enjoy quality time with loved ones. Take a walk around the town with your loved ones and grab a coffee or hot cocoa.

### 7. Practice Self-Care

Amidst the holiday hustle, don't forget to prioritize self-care. Schedule moments of relaxation and rejuvenation to avoid burnout. Whether it's a

bubble bath, a quiet reading time by the fireplace, or a brisk walk in nature, taking care of yourself contributes to a more enjoyable holiday experience.

### 8. Give Back

One of the most powerful ways to cultivate gratitude during the holidays is by giving back to those in need. Whether through volunteer work, donations, or acts of kindness, contributing to the well-being of others fosters a deep sense of appreciation for the abundance in your own life.

The holidays can be an opportunity to cultivate gratitude and embrace the joy of the season. By adopting a grateful mindset, expressing appreciation, savoring simple moments, and engaging in meaningful traditions, you can create a holiday experience filled with joy, connection, and lasting memories.

So, this holiday season, let gratitude be your guiding light, and may you enjoy every moment the season has to offer. This can be one of the most wonderful times of the year. We just have to shift our attention away from all the consumerism around us and get back to basics.

## LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

# Welcoming Ukrainians: A Young Girl's Dream and a Community Event

VJ KNUTSON

*Times Freelance Columnist*

"What are you interested in?" I asked the children on that first day that our Ukrainian friends arrived.

7-year-old Demian was interested in 'football', or what we call soccer. His 9-year-old sister also liked football, but art was her forte. The oldest sister, whose English didn't require help from Google translate, said she was interested in Cirque du Soleil.

As we became more at home with each other, and Alina discovered that I wrote a newspaper column, she asked if I would write about her dream. So, I interviewed her, and Alina's Dream appeared in the St Marys Independent the following week. John Stevens, from the Front Porch Show read the article and contacted me to see

if Alina would perform on the show. She enthusiastically set about choreographing a routine with the help of her coach back home in Ukraine.

Alina's performance that day last summer, drew attention from two circus schools in the region and Alina was invited to audition, winning scholarships to both. Carefully weighing up her options, Alina chose Studio Cirque in London. In the year that followed, Alina trained 4 days a week, often 7 hours a day. Community volunteers offered to help with the driving to make sure Alina didn't miss out. In December, my husband and I and three of our grandchildren went to see a performance. We were all astounded. In three short months, Alina's skills had progressed so much.

The scholarship money ended in July, 2023. Not wanting to let the dream go, the family started to raise money. A Go-

FundMe was set up for "Alina's Cirque du Soleil dream". Mom, Nataly, offered to cook for dinner parties, and the kids sold lemonade and other homemade items to help out. A silent auction is in the works.

The long-term plan is that Alina, now 15, will work for the studio, teaching classes, in order to pay her way, but Alina's work permit is currently held up in red tape. In the meantime, the family is \$3,000 short of their goal. To help out, Alina's troupe has volunteered to put on a performance at DCVI in St Marys. The event will be held December 8th, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$25/person and will be sold at the door. Come on out if you can. The whole family will be well entertained.

Stratford volunteers, Kiri-Lyn and Tabitha, have been hard at work planning for a Ukrainian/Canadian gathering, held last Sunday at the Falstaff Family Centre. With over 60 in attendance, the event was

a great success bringing together Ukrainians, hosts, and others from the area. Building community means so much towards building success for all. Thank you to the volunteers, and to all who came out.

Over the past year and a half, many Ukrainians have settled in Huron and Perth counties, and we have seen the difference that socializing has meant. Our goal is to create active lines of communication and bolster support in and around the Ukrainian community. As we are not a charitable organization, fundraising is not on our agenda. Helping one another, person to person is our mission.

If you have a need or would like to know how to get involved, please message me at english.knutson@gmail.com or connect with our volunteers on Stratford Community connects with Ukrainian Newcomers on Facebook. You can also find me at Huron Perth County Helps Ukraine.

## Brainless But Not Mindless The Embodied Mind Hypothesis



THOMAS R VERNY, MD

*Times Contributor*

### Introduction

Ask most people what is the seat in their body for thinking, feeling, and acting, for memory or consciousness, and they're most likely to look at you as if to say, "What a dumb question! It's in the brain, of course." Well, maybe not. In fact, there are instances where the brain cannot possibly account for what we know and how we function in the world.

In this post, I propose to offer extensive research that disputes the widely-held cortico-centric hypothesis of the mind and instead advances a more holistic body-mind theory, which I call the embodied mind hypothesis.

### Discussion

I started to explore this subject six years ago, when I read an article reprinted from Reuters Science News entitled, "Tiny brain no obstacle to French civil servant." It seems that in July 2007, a 44-year-old French man went to a hospital complaining of a mild weakness in his left leg. When doctors learned that the man had a spinal shunt removed when he was 14, they performed numerous scans of his head. What they discovered was a

huge fluid-filled chamber occupying most of the space in his skull, leaving little more than a thin sheet of actual brain tissue. It was a case of hydrocephalus, literally—water on the brain (Fig. 1). Dr. Lionel Feuillet of Hôpital de la Timone in Marseille was quoted as saying, "The images were most unusual ... the brain was virtually absent." The patient was a married father of two children, and worked as a civil servant apparently leading a normal life, despite having a cranium filled with spinal fluid and very little brain tissue.

### Animal Studies

In the animal kingdom, vast ranges in brain size fail to correlate with apparent cognitive power. Crows and ravens, for example, have brains less than 1% the size of a human brain, but still perform feats of cognition comparable to chimpanzees and gorillas. They are also able to put themselves in the position of others, recognize causalities, and draw conclusions. Pigeons can learn English spelling up to the level of 6-year-old children. Behavioral studies have shown that these birds can fashion and use tools, and recognize people on the street—things that even many primates fail to accomplish.

Some octopus species have been documented digging for and using seashells and coconut shells as tools and protection, while other species have collected rocks and positioned them in front of dens as a way to keep safe (Fig. 2). There are many anecdotal stories of octopuses escaping from tanks in aquariums and shooting jets of water at particular individuals and equipment. This may sound more entertaining than indicative of intelligence but the stories also

demonstrate that the animals can recognize individual humans and show an element of planning and evaluation of their surroundings.

Octopuses lack a central brain. Each of an octopus's eight arms has an extensive number of neurons resulting in the equivalent of having a "brain" in each appendage that is capable of receiving and processing information about the environment. These findings question a clear-cut link between brain size and cognitive skills.

### Human Studies

The medical literature contains a surprising number of known cases of people missing a substantial portion of their cerebral cortex, the outermost layer of brain tissue, held to be the seat of our thinking brain.

In an article titled "Is Your Brain Really Necessary," science writer Roger Lewin reviewed a series of 600 cases by pediatrician John Lorber in England of people with hydrocephalus—an excess of cerebrospinal fluid, commonly known as water on the brain. In 60 of those cases, the fluid took up 95% of their cranium (skull), and yet, half of those had above-average IQs. Among them was a student with an IQ of 126 who received a first-class honors degree in mathematics and was deemed socially normal. For this case, Lorber noted that instead of the typical 4.5 cm thickness of brain tissue between the ventricles and the cortical surface, there was just a thin layer of mantle measuring a millimeter or so. The cranium was mainly filled with cerebrospinal fluid.

Now consider the following case from China of a 24-year-old woman admitted to the PLA General Hospital in Shandong Province

complaining of dizziness and nausea. She told doctors she'd had problems walking steadily for most of her life, that she hadn't walked until she was 7, and that her speech only became intelligible at the age of 6.

A CAT scan (computerized axial tomography scans are special X-ray tests that produce cross-sectional images of the body) immediately identified the source of the problem: her entire cerebellum was missing. The space where the cerebellum should have been was empty of tissue. Instead, it was filled with cerebrospinal fluid. The patient's doctors suggested that normal cerebellar function might have been taken over by the cortex.

In humans, radical removal of half of the brain is sometimes performed as a treatment for epilepsy in children. Commenting on a cohort of more than 50 patients who underwent this procedure, a team at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore wrote that they were "awed by the apparent retention of memory after removal of half of the brain, either half, and by the retention of the child's personality and sense of humor."

I suggest that people with missing brain tissue who appear to act quite normally perform as well as they do not because of "neuroplasticity" or "recruitment" of unaffected areas in the brain, though no doubt some of that applies, but because the brain never works alone. Its function is inextricably linked to the body and to the outside world. In the individual who lacks a large part of their cortex, the neurons in the cranial nerves, spinal cord, and other cells in the body (somatic cells, immune cells, etc.) form a network that is constantly

communicating with the brain—or what's left of it—and acts like a backup disk on a computer, containing snippets of memory and functionality that collectively contribute to near normal cognition and behavior.

### Conclusion

Cases of hydrocephaly provide convincing support for the argument that the size of a human brain is unrelated to its information content, intelligence, or capacities. Based on the latest advances in science, I seriously question the long-held theory of the enskulled mind and suggest instead a new holistic theory of the embodied mind.

### Key Takeaways

- The size of a human brain is unrelated to its information content, intelligence, or capacities.
- The brain never works alone.
- Cells in the body (somatic cells, immune cells, etc.) form a network that acts like a backup disk for the brain.

*Dr. Thomas R VERNY MD is a psychiatrist, podcaster and author of 47 scientific papers and eight books including the international best seller, The Secret Life of the Unborn Child, published in 27 countries and the recently released, The Embodied Mind. The Embodied Mind shows how intelligence and consciousness—traits traditionally attributed to the brain alone—permeate our entire being. Dr. VERNY lives with his wife in Stratford.*

*In Pushing Boundaries, Dr. VERNY will report on pioneering research and breakthrough recoveries in science and the arts as they impact our lives. He will try to address the question of readers everywhere, "Why should I care, of what value is this to me?"*

# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: When a travel plan gets even better



PAUL KNOWLES

Times Contributor

If you remember the TV show “The A-Team,” you will remember the phrase, “I love it when a plan comes together.” Well, you know what’s even better? When a plan turns out to be an even better plan than you planned!

Read it again – eventually, that will make sense.

And that is what has happened with the trip I am leading to Wales and the Cotswolds, next May.

Some background: last year, I collaborated with the excellent folks at Stonetown Travel to plan and lead a coach tour of southern England, which we dubbed “Canterbury to Cornwall.” I had no idea how it would go, but – in my obviously biased opinion – it was great. A great tour, great destinations and, most importantly, a great group of fellow travellers. It was so enjoyable that I agreed to put together another itinerary, and lead a group to another part of the British Isles, in 2024.

I only want to take that on, if we’re visiting places I am very familiar with – I think I owe it to my group to have a good idea of our destinations. I knew I wanted to go to the Cotswolds, that beautiful part of England often called “The Heart of England.” A visit there must include Stratford, Coventry, and Oxford, all without spending a lot of time on the bus. And yes, I have been to the district several times, and loved every minute of it.

But as I looked at a map of the U.K., I realized that we could include a few days in Wales – a destination often overlooked – as part of this tour. And, yes, I have been to Wales – but at the time I planned the trip, it had been about 25 years since my last visit there. I recalled enough, though, to choose the charming town of Abergavenny as our headquarters for a three-night stay.

And that’s where the plan turned out to be even better than I had planned. Because in September of this year, I got a call from a website



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The High Street in Abergavenny, where the group will stay for four nights.

publisher: “Would you like to go to Wales, next week, to write about the Abergavenny Food Festival?” I would have to leave in a week.

Really? I jumped at the chance, thanked the nice people at vacay.ca, and packed my carry-on.

The time in Wales was amazing, and I got lots of material for travel articles, but at least as importantly, I got to visit the very town and surrounding area that I had already planned for our Wales and the Cotswolds trip. And that opportunity meant I could connect, personally, with people in Wales, and arrange unique experiences that would never have been possible if I were planning the trip based on decades-old memories. I got to visit the hotel we will be staying at. I met the owner of a vineyard where we are going to have a tasting of wine made in Wales – great

stuff (I did check it out, assiduously), but never available in Canada. I talked to the folks at historic and scenic sites, and was able to arrange some unique experiences for our group.

My time in Wales was so good that when I returned home, I rejigged the tour itinerary, to add one day in this fascinating country. My new plan is definitely better than what I had planned!

Of course, we will also be visiting amazing sites in England. We’ll be staying in Stratford-upon-Avon for a few days, which will include attending a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and visits to all sorts of sites connected to the great play-

wright, himself.

I can’t wait to revisit Coventry Cathedral, one of the most emotionally powerful places in the world. The story of the bombing of Coventry, including the cathedral; the decision to maintain the ruins as a memorial; and the construction of the new cathedral right next door, is a powerful narrative, full of poignant details that I will keep to myself, until we are at the site.

We’ll also stay in Chipping Campden, a beautiful Cotswold town, and in Oxford, where there is so much to experience – includ-

ing music in one of the historic churches.

I was especially excited to learn that a new visitor spot has opened near Oxford – Bletchley Park, famed site of the top-secret decoding operation that cracked the Nazi’s communications code, the Enigma Code. This has been made famous in historical accounts, books, and movies. I jumped at the chance for our group to pay a visit.

I am very grateful to the people at Stonetown Travel – including Stewart Grant, that very busy guy who owns the travel agencies and also this newspaper and its sister publications – for offering me the chance to put my travel experience into practice by introducing others to some of the most interesting parts of the world.

I am also grateful for the sheer coincidence that took me to Wales in September, turning my plan into a better plan than I had planned!

For more information, contact me, or Louise Bell at [louise@stonetowntravel.com](mailto:louise@stonetowntravel.com).

*Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email [pknowles@golden.net](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*

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Branch Office: 210 Mill Street,  
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**St Peter's Church "Starlite Bazaar"  
coming up November 25th**



**GARY WEST**

*Times Correspondent*

Stratford and area residents should mark their calendars for Saturday, November 25th, from 1-3:30 p.m. for the annual St. Peter's "Starlite" Bazaar.

To get area shoppers ready for Christmas, they will be featuring Christmas puddings and sauce, baking, assorted

cookie tins, deli table, gift baskets, and wreaths along with quilts and crafts. They also have a "new-to-you room", with treasures galore.

The Bazaar is sponsored by the Mary-Martha Society and proceeds are earmarked for various church projects and community organizations.

The church location is 115 Cambria Street in Stratford.

**New Cars Arriving Daily at Stratford Kia**

**2024 Kia Niro EV**



**2024 Kia Forte**



**2024 Kia Telluride**



**2023 Kia Rio**



**2024 Seltos**



**Sales, Service & Parts**



**STORE HOURS SALES: Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00; Friday-Saturday 9:00-6:00  
PARTS AND SERVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00**

**863 ERIE STREET | STRATFORD  
519.508.5755**

**General Manager: Bobin Mathew**

**[www.stratfordkia.com](http://www.stratfordkia.com)**

**STRATFORD KIA**





# Riddles

How do vampires get around on Halloween?  
On blood vessels.

Why did the Headless Horseman get a job?  
He was trying to get ahead in life.

The skeleton couldn't help being afraid of the storm—  
he just didn't have any guts.

How can you tell when a vampire has been in a bakery?  
All the jelly has been sucked out of the jelly doughnuts.

What do ghosts wear when their eyesight gets blurred?  
Spooktacles.

What can you catch from a vampire in winter?  
Frostbite.

What would be the national holiday for a nation of vampires?  
Fangs-giving!

Why didn't the skeleton go to prom?  
He had no body to go with.

Who did the scary ghost invite to his party?  
Any old friend he could dig up!

# Sudoku

		5	4			1		2
	7							
	6		3			9		
6					4	5		
	9		1					6
			7		8			
2								8
		4	5	1				7

Solutions on page 35



## Pet of the Month

### GINGER

Ginger is a 3-year-old female cat. She might be a bit on the shy side, but underneath her nervous exterior lies a heart full of love just waiting to blossom. Ginger is searching for a patient and caring forever home where she can feel safe and cherished. Please don't let her shyness deter you. She has so much love to give, and with the right person by her side, Ginger will blossom into the sweet and affectionate cat she was meant to be. Will you be the one to help Ginger on this journey of trust and love? Submit an adoption survey at <https://kwsphumane.ca/adopt/process> and embark on a beautiful adventure with Ginger and create a purr-fectly wonderful bond that will last a lifetime.



# Word Search

## HOCKEY

Q	E	Z	D	S	X	V	T	P	N	P	A	L	B	X	M	C	B	U	X
K	R	I	N	K	V	V	L	J	F	A	T	H	U	F	Q	Q	M	M	G
C	O	F	J	J	E	O	I	M	H	H	J	E	S	T	S	T	C	A	I
I	C	O	H	T	D	G	T	S	X	G	Q	S	M	E	S	N	V	E	O
T	S	R	S	W	I	I	C	L	W	G	L	Z	H	L	P	P	Y	R	W
S	P	W	B	P	S	I	P	V	D	E	F	E	N	S	E	M	E	N	G
I	D	A	S	A	F	C	U	J	C	O	A	C	H	N	Z	H	G	G	Q
N	V	R	M	B	F	G	C	A	U	I	C	N	A	W	E	A	B	T	N
D	J	D	P	H	O	F	K	J	Z	S	P	L	H	Q	P	F	X	K	G
K	V	V	F	S	R	Z	P	A	S	S	T	B	U	C	W	G	V	U	A
U	Z	H	E	I	H	E	S	K	C	Y	A	I	F	W	Q	A	T	O	K
P	S	J	W	T	E	N	F	V	G	B	M	F	C	B	A	W	P	G	K
O	Z	W	R	Z	A	I	M	Y	Y	L	O	T	I	E	Z	L	Y	S	G
D	O	G	O	F	I	L	F	X	E	E	O	A	I	P	X	X	O	Z	S
S	E	A	L	T	B	M	P	B	C	H	F	S	R	C	X	G	F	J	C
J	U	Y	Z	M	B	F	T	A	S	G	W	E	O	D	E	C	S	C	Z
D	L	A	O	G	N	Y	F	M	D	V	O	R	U	C	S	F	X	U	O
T	B	Q	A	T	P	L	R	B	V	H	L	B	X	Z	E	Z	D	Y	K
Q	M	B	I	G	K	U	W	V	R	B	C	R	E	F	E	R	E	E	V
J	D	R	L	B	O	D	M	U	S	D	O	X	Q	L	X	U	K	D	M

- REFEREE
- GOAL
- HELMET
- DEFENSEMEN
- PENALTY
- PASS
- OFFSIDE
- SHOT
- SCORE
- PUCK
- ICE
- STICK
- BLUE LINE
- RINK
- BOARDS
- FORWARD
- NET
- FANS
- COACH
- FACEOFF

# CLASSIFIEDS

Email to inquire [stratfordtimes@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordtimes@gmail.com)

## WANTED

\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Folk, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: **DIAMOND DOGS MUSIC** 114 Ontario St. Stratford / 226-972-5750

WANTED A APARTMENT TO RENT: I am eagerly looking for one bedroom or two bedroom apartment in Stratford, Ontario with parking, pet friendly for November 1st or for December 1st . The two bedroom apartment my older son and I will be sharing the apartment Call Cindy at 519-273-3918

## WANTED

Fair value offered for your VINYL RECORDS & STEREO EQUIPMENT.

**SOUND FIXATION 519-801-5421**  
56 Wellington St., Stratford

I WILL PAY CASH FOR ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES – Coca Cola Pepsi any pop company, Brewery items Kuntz, Huether Labatts etc. Old radios and gramophones, Wristwatches and pocket watches, Old fruit jars Beaver Star Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs Red Indian Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

## WANTED

A WORKING CAMCORDER that will play Hi-8 digital tapes. Phone 519-284-3774

WANTING TO BUY – All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

## SERVICES

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place. 1-800-706-9833 or App Available

# RUN YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE!

JUST \$10 + HST PER EDITION

Contact: [stratfordtimes@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordtimes@gmail.com) or call 519-655-2341

## STRATFORD KIA CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

2021 Subaru Crosstrek Limited



**\$34,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
52,208 km

2022 Cadillac CT5 Sport



**\$49,995** + HST & lic Rear-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
24,271 km

2021 Kia Soul EV Premium



**\$36,995** + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
46,710 km

2020 Ford Explorer XLT



**\$38,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
57,423 km

2022 Mercedes-Benz C-Class 300



**\$46,995** + HST & lic 4MATIC Sedan All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
46,741 km

2021 Ford Edge SEL



**\$39,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
12,466 km

2020 Chevrolet Blazer True North



**\$39,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
11,504 km

2019 Lexus UX 250h



**\$38,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
22,471 km

2022 Ford Explorer ST



**\$52,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
25,675 km

2021 Jeep Compass Trailhawk



**\$35,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
31,277 km

2022 Honda Pilot Sport



**\$49,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
41,420 km

**WINTER TIRE SPECIAL DEALS**

**FREE 1 YEAR STORAGE!**

**KIA** Stratford

2022 GMC Terrain SLE



**\$38,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
112,321 km

2021 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT



**\$37,995** + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive  
**LOW KMS**  
17,586 km

Bad or Challenging Credit? No problem! Everyone is approved, some conditions apply.



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PARTS AND SERVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

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**519.508.5755**  
General Manager: Bobin Mathew  
[www.stratfordkia.com](http://www.stratfordkia.com)

STRATFORD KIA



\*While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, we are not responsible for any errors and omissions. Please see your dealer for current pricing. Plus tax and licensing. Some terms and conditions may apply.

# COMING EVENTS

Email to inquire  
stratfordtimes@gmail.com

**MISTLETOE MARKET AT ST. JAMES**  
November 25; 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
St. James Anglican Church  
41 Mornington Street, Stratford  
All things Christmas! Baking, savouries, home-made crafts, treasures and many more items just in time for Christmas giving. Be sure to visit our Snowflake Cafe and enjoy tasty treats as our Guest.

**DRAG STORYTIME**  
Saturday November 25;  
10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Stratford Public Library  
19 St. Andrew St.  
Drag Story Time with Galaxy Rose and Brattery Acid. These two wonderful readers will share favourite children's stories.

**GARDEN STRATFORD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL**  
December 4; 6:30 -9:00 p.m.  
Army Navy Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. E., Stratford  
Feature Presentation: "Big Ideas for Small Gardens", Paul Gellatly, "The Tattooed Gardener". Paul is a visionary gardener, passionate horticulturalist and author. Meeting open to Everyone; free admission.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Suzanne Collins
- 2) 4
- 3) Orange bands
- 4) Casket, Coffin, Tomb
- 5) The Roman Empire
- 6) George W. Bush
- 7) Kampala
- 8) Doe or Nanny
- 9) 18 inches
- 10) Ted Kaczynski

## SUDOKU

9	8	5	4	7	6	1	3	2
1	7	3	2	5	9	8	4	6
4	6	2	3	8	1	9	5	7
6	2	7	9	3	4	5	8	1
3	9	8	1	2	5	7	6	4
5	4	1	7	6	8	2	9	3
2	5	9	6	4	7	3	1	8
7	1	6	8	9	3	4	2	5
8	3	4	5	1	2	6	7	9

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## ACCOUNTING

**Famme & Co.**  
Professional Corporation  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS  
125 Ontario St., Stratford  
519-271-7581 | Fax 519-271-2737  
office@fammeandco.on.ca

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**519-949-3107**  
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General Contracting  
info@jandjconst.com  
www.jandjconst.com

## FENCING / DECKS

**ALL SHORES Fencing & Decks**  
519-273-2003  
info@allshoresfd.ca

## HUMANE SOCIETY

Stratford Perth  
**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
125 Griffith Rd, Stratford  
519-273-6600  
kwsphumane.ca

## HOME APPLIANCES

**PHELANS PLACE Appliances**  
APPLIANCES • PARTS  
237 Huron Road, Sebringville  
519-393-6181  
info@phelansplace.com  
www.phelansplace.com

## INVESTMENTS

**Franklin E. Hinz**  
196 Ontario Street, Stratford  
519-273-1633  
www.franklinehinz.com

## MARKETING

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ROYAL LEPAGE Hiller Realty  
519-301-2736  
www.jandersonrealestate.com

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**Tina Grasby**  
BROKER  
b. 519.508.HOME (4663) | m. 519-275-7663  
tgrasby@homeandcompany.ca  
homeandcompany.ca

## REAL ESTATE

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tmclean@homeandcompany.ca

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Saturday: Closed for winter hours.  
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# black friday

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**Flippable**



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**TWO COLOURS AVAILABLE**  
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Sorry, no Rain Checks

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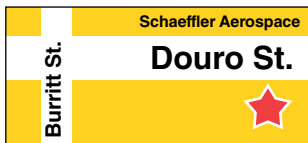
Some conditions apply



# Home furniture



**MAIN STORE:**  
519-273-9330  
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**OUTLET:**  
519-273-7453  
617 Douro Street

Follow us on:



**Outlet Hours:**  
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Sat. 10 to 5  
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**Main Store Hours:**  
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Fri. 10 to 8  
Sat. 10 to 5  
Sun. 12 to 4

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[www.homefurniture.ca](http://www.homefurniture.ca)